JUNE 1958 RESUSCITATION FOR CARDIAC ARREST also . . . Back to the Bedside: An Escape Mechanism? use also . . . You Can Be Sued for That! in onvale eadach becaus the an RIN col liets. TOL-MYE

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## PHONE CALL MEMO

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TIME: 2:30 p.m. to: Dr. Burson CALLED BY: Mrs. Keegan MESSAGE: She was about to leave on a vacation trip with the family and wanted to know the name of that ointment for insect bites and poison ivy you always I told her Calmitol. E.E.D. recommend. nutol is much more . Than calamine never sensiti gravates

<sup>\*</sup>Calmitol is the non-sensitizing antipruritic supplied as Ointment in 1½-oz. tubes and 1-lb. jars, and as Liquid, for more stubborn pruritus, in 2-oz. bottles by Thos. Leeming & Co., Inc., New York 17, N.Y. Write for samples.

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VOLUME 21 · NO. 6 · JUNE 1958

'Back to the Bedside!'
Does this cry reflect a real urge among R.N.s to give more bedside care? Or merely a desire to escape new responsibilities?
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Your knowledge may help save a life if you're prepared to assist in performing this fundamentally simple emergency technique
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This pediatric nurse builds her daily TV program around baby care demonstrations, interviews with parents, and answers to questions
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The psychologic needs of sick children get major consideration in the pediatric nursing program of this progressive hospital
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This R.N. points out to hospital managements what they'd better do if they expect to build job satisfaction among their nurses
If You Need to Borrow Money
Here are some key facts worth knowing about lending agencies, interest rates, and other aspects of getting a loan

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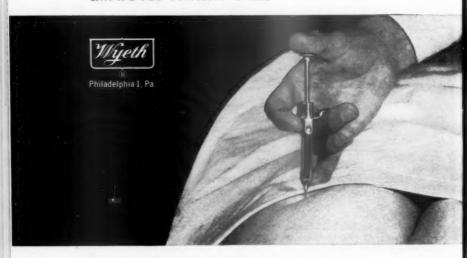
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because you recommend

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for use

at every change

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soothes . heals . protects

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#### **JUNE 1958**

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- Massengill Powder has a "clean" antiseptic fragrance. It enjoys unusual patient acceptance
- Massengill Powder is buffered to maintain an acid condition in the vaginal mucosa. It is more effective than vinegar and simple acid douches.
- Massengill Powder has a low surface tension which enables it to penetrate into and cleanse the folds of the vaginal mucosa.
- Massengill Powder solutions are easy to prepare. They are nonstaining, mildly astringent.



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## INDICATIONS:

Massengill Powder solutions are a valuable adjunct in the management of monilia, trichomonas, staphylococcus, and streptococcus infections of the vaginal tract. Routine douching with Massengill Powder solution minimizes subjective discomfort and maintains a state of cleanliness and normal acidity without interfering with specific treatment.

Currently, mailings will be forwarded only at your request. Write for samples and literature.

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The clean, refreshing fragrance of Massengill Powder is acceptable to the most fastidious for therapeutic or routine hygienic use. Solutions are easily prepared, convenient to use, nonstaining. They effectively cleanse, deodorize and soothe the vaginal mucosa, while their mild astringent properties tend to decrease vaginal secretions.

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#### LOW PH RETENTION

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Massengill Powder is buffered to retain an acid condition. In a recent study, ambulatory patients—with an alkaine vaginal mucosa resulting from pathogens—maintained an acid varinal mucosa of pH 3.5 for a period of to 6 hours after douching with Massengill Powder; recumbent patients maintained a satisfactory acid condition up to 24 hours. Simple acid douches are quickly neutralized by an alkaline vaginal mucosa, and are unsatisfactory in maintaining the required acid pH of the vagina.<sup>2</sup>

#### LOWER SURFACE TENSION

Massengill Powder in the standard solution has a surface tension of 50 dynes/cm. as compared to that of water and simple acid solutions with 72 dynes/cm. This added property enables Massengill Powder to penetrate into and cleanse the folds of the vaginal mucosa, thus increasing the therapeutic effectiveness. Lowered surface tension makes the cell wall and cytoplasmic membrane of the infecting organism more permeable and more susceptible to specific therapy.<sup>2</sup>

#### SUPPLY

Massengill Powder is supplied in glass jars of the following sizes:

Small, 3 oz. Medium, 6 oz. Large, 16 oz. Hospital Size, 5 lbs.

Pads of douching instructions for patient use available on request:

#### REFERENCES

- Lang, W.R., Rakoff, A.E., Am. Geriatrics Soc. 1:520 (1953).
- Arnot, P.H., The Problem of Douching, Western Journal of Surg., Obs., and Gyn., Vol. 62, No. 2:85 (1954).

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## 3"x 3" PAD

Three-ply, fine-mesh gauze, lightly impregnated for use in physician's office, industrial medical department, first aid. Now supplied in:

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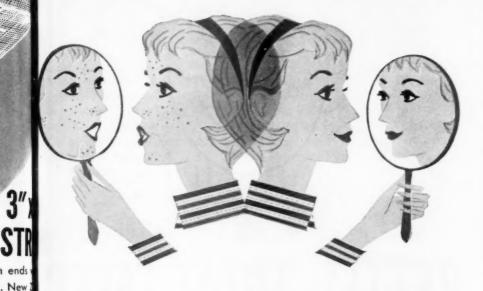
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Acnomel's special vehicle removes excess oil from the skin, and holds 'Acnomel' in intimate contact with affected areas. Because it is flesh-tinted, 'Acnomel' is virtually invisible when applied.

Best of all, results with 'Acnomel' are often apparent not in months or weeks, but within days.

Note: 'Acnomel' Cake is packaged in a handy compact for use away from home during the day or evening.

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## **HEADACHE · NEURITIS · NEURALGIA**

Anacin Tablets are optimally successful in the relief of simple pain. They exceed the benefits of plain aspirin and buffered aspirin by giving a 'better total effect.' That is, Anacin not only relieves the pain but also lessens emotional tension and leaves the patient more relaxed. The mild sedative action of phenacetin-double that of aspirin-induces a 'restful' state in which the reparative forces are nurtured. Tolerance is excellent. Anacin does not upset the stomach: Why not give consideration to Anacin as the non-narcotic analgesia of your choice?

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# Pletters

#### KEEP IT IMPERSONAL'

DEAR EDITOR: I don't agree with Amy Vanderbilt when she suggests that a woman patient may extend a social invitation to her nurse as a gesture of appreciation.

I believe the nurse-patient relationship should remain impersonal.

At some future time the nurse may again come in contact professionally with her ex-patients or their families. If, in the meanwhile, she has become emotionally involved with them, she may not be able to do her professional best.

Joan Freid, R.N. Lynn, Mass.

#### FAT GIRL'S DREAM

DEAR EDITOR: After reading "Dieting That Works," I wonder whether the authors couldn't be persuaded to amend their awful pronouncement: "To reduce and stay reduced, you must establish a new way of eating—and follow it forever."

I have a mental picture of myself proudly (but sadly) carrying my frame down the straight and narrow 1,200-calories-a-day road yéar after year, ad infinitum. And such a lonely road it is!

I also wonder how my friends would respond to an invitation for

an evening of Scrabble and a 100-calorie snack.

What are our medical researchers doing about this No. 1 health problem? Surely we can expect the future will offer something better than a steady diet of dieting.

Or is that just a fat girl's dream?
Rachel G. Francis, R.N.
Hill, N.H.

#### RX FOR MORE NURSES

DEAR EDITOR: Many servicemen, like myself, are doing hospital work. Some of us plan eventually to become R.N.s. Others are uninformed about the opportunities in male nursing and about how to get into it.

Why doesn't the A.N.A., the National League for Nursing, or some hospital school contact us? We've already had some formal instruction and considerable bedside experience.

Richard H. Falk U.S. Naval Air Station Atlantic City, N.J.

#### ROUTINE'S A TEACHER

DEAR EDITOR: Repetitive bed-making as a "must" for students is exploiting them, says Maxime Taylor in your news columns.

But is it?

While doing this routine work,



Why patients on

#### **GELUSIL®**

are easier to care for . . .

When Gelusil is specified to control gastric hyperacidity, you'll find patient care is always easier—more pleasant for you. Here are the reasons:

Gelusil contains no laxative, yet is nonconstipating—minimizes enema and bed pan chores.

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Gelusil
Hospital Bottle,
designed especially
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WARNER-CHILCOTT

#### LETTERS

observe her patients; and of such observation she can never have

The modern student needs *model* close association with patients.

R.N., Wiscons

#### THE PAY DOESN'T PAY

DEAR EDITOR: Why don't retire nurses return to active duty? Mown case—typical of many—a swers that question conclusively.

The nearest hospitals are twe ty-eight miles from my home. So ary offered is about \$240 a mont After paying my car costs, I'd n about 73 cents an hour for m time away from home.

A small chiropractic hospit five miles from home pays \$1 a hour and gives one meal a day.

Figure it out: Which is better?

R.N., Pennsylvan

#### NO SEXY UNIFORMS!

DEAR EDITOR: If a nurse's uniform is neat, clean, and functional, such matters as color and material assecondary. The wearer's objectivities what counts.

The starchiest white unifor ever created never made a num out of a woman—no matter ho thorough her scholastic training.

Sybil E. Watson, R.P. Philadelphia, Pa.

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DEAR EDITOR: After viewing the new trend in uniforms, as illustrated in RN, I'm disappointed.

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## TUSSIONEX

A Strasionic' Release Product & Dihydrocodeinone Resin-Phenyltoloxamine Resin

#### 8-12 Hour Control with a Single Dose

Suppresses nighttime sleep-robbing, daytime distracting, useless coughs without interfering with the protective cough mechanism.

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Each teaspoon (5cc) Tussionex liquid or Tussionex tablet contains 5 mg. dihydrocodeinone and 10 mg. phenyltoloxamine as resin complexes. Stock bottles of 16 oz. or 100 tablets.

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One teaspoon (5cc) or one tablet every 8-12 hours. May safely be adjusted to meet individual requirements.

#### References

(1) Chan, Y. T. and Hays, E. E., The American Journal of the Medical Sciences, August 1957; (2) Townsend, E. H. Jr., The New England Journal of Medicine, January 9, 1958; (3) Weismiller, F., In Press; (4) Cass, Leo J. and Frederik, W. S., In Press.

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R. J. STRASENBURGH CO., ROCHESTER, N. Y., U.S.A.



professional in "a striking, longsleeve sheath with plunging neckline and stand-up collar"? (This would be a gem in "shocking pink"!)

I've been a graduate for only three years. Yet I strongly advocate the once-popular starched white cotton uniform with long sleeves and high neck.

I prefer to look and feel like a nurse—not like a sexy chorus girl!

Carol Ann Zeidler, R.N. New Rochelle, N.Y.

#### TWO-YEAR R.N.S

DEAR EDITOR: The two-year graduate sounds (as your April article indicates) like a good idea. But you're wrong if you think that the hospitals-and the two-year graduates themselves-will adhere to the principle that such graduates aren't intended to be charge nurses.

Take the practical nurse as a straw in the wind. She's been given responsibilities far beyond her training.

Your two-year R.N. will also be allowed to "take over."

As far as I'm concerned, we're not improving our nursing standards; we're simply lowering them. I, for one, want our profession to put its emphasis on quality rather than on quantity.

R.N., Illinois END

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Now a Special Hygienic Powder

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-during those "self conscious" days each month when ordinary deodorants can't protect you



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- Relieves chafing, sticking
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14 RN · JUNE 1958

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combined penicillin and dihydrostreptomycin therapy

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COMBIOTIC P-S (DRY POWDER) 1.0 GM. FORMULA: 300,000 units penicillin G procaine crystalline; 100,000 units penicillin G potassium crystalline; 1.0 Gm. dihydrostreptomycin sulfate per dose. 0.5 GM. FORMULA: same penicillin content as above but with 0.5 Gm. dihydrostreptomycin sulfate per dose. Combiotic Aqueous Suspension (ready to inject) in five-dose "drain-clear" (10 cc.) vials, 400,000 unit's penicillin G procaine crystalline and 0.5 Gm. dihydrostreptomycin sulfate in each 2 cc. dose. Also available in:



sterile needle-disposable cartridge assembly cuts down nursing time and work of I.M. injections.

Unbreakable Steraject syringe (re-usable without sterilization) holds individual dose of antibiotic in Steraject cartridge. The cartridge is supplied with sterile needle attached. Simply insert into Steraject syringe, inject, dispose of cartridge and needle. Prevents cross infection; saves precious nursing time. Pfizer injectables available in singledose disposable cartridges:

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Combiotic Aqueous Suspension, 400,000 units penicillin G procaine crystalline plus 0.5 Gm. di-

Streptomycin Sulfate Solution, 1 Gm.

Dihydrostreptomycin Sulfate Solution, 1 Gm.

(most with 22-gauge needle to minimize injection pain).

remove sheath hydrostreptomycin. ready to use!

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#### **Dial proved**

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#### than any other soap



Former Hexachlorophene



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E & J Power Drive Chair runs, turns, steers with one-knob control

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conforming gauze makes your bandaging easier!

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just rolls on ...

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—will not constrict swelling area.

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THE OLD WAY. Ordinary gauze bandage loosens up and frays at edges, and restricts movement of loints.

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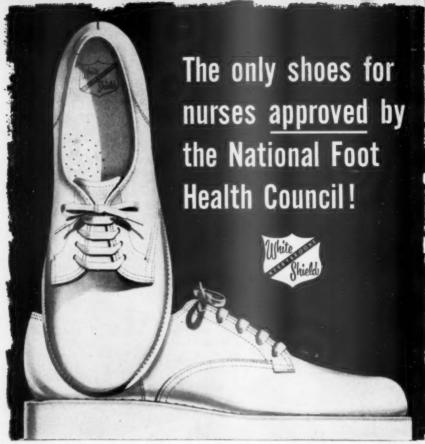
GELES 25



THE NEW WAY. New Red Cross Improved Bandage stays on smoothly . . . Allows more freedom of movement.



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Made of top quality washable leather that cleans beautifully. Cushioned beneath your arch to reduce fatigue. Lightweight, flexible, long-wearing soles. There are three easy ways to buy them: at Sears Retail Stores, by mail or phone from the new Fall catalog, or at your nearest Sears Catalog Sales Office. Only \$7.98



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20 RN - JUNE 1958

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# $RI_{news}$

#### BRITISH M.D.S URGED TO LIGHTEN NURSES' WORK

Let TPRs be taken only when a clinician specifically asks for such readings. And let lay clerks handle as much hospital paper work as possible.

So suggests Britain's medical journal, The Lancet, reminding hospital physicians that ward nurses are needed increasingly for techniques that are a lot more important than routine TPRs.

Such readings are of questionable value anyway when taken routinely, the journal contends; and the time consumed by them could be far better spent on patient care.

A.N.A.'s NEW PIN, official blackand-gold symbol of membership in the organization, goes on sale at this month's biennial convention in Atlantic City. It may be ordered thereafter from the various state nurses' associations.

940

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BUCK AND G

#### NURSE WINS \$56,000 IN HOSPITAL SWEEPSTAKES

The voice on the phone was one she'd never heard before. And the news sounded so preposterous that Alice Murphy felt sure it was a prankster calling.

It wasn't. The reporter on the

line was a bona fide newspaperman. But it took a bit of doing on his part to convince the young nurse that she'd just won \$56,000 on a horse named Tiberetta.

Miss Murphy's father, it seems, had bought a ticket in her name on an entry in the Irish Hospital Sweepstakes. "I've never played the horses myself," says the 23-year-old R.N.

She'll net, she figures, about \$23,000 after Uncle Sam claims his share in income taxes. And she



Alice Murphy, R.N.

plans to divide that sum with her dad.

Part of what she keeps for herself will go, she says, toward completing her studies for a degree. And some may be spent on a trip to Europe this summer.

Meanwhile, she's continuing to do general duty at St. Joseph's Hospital in Paterson, N. J. She went right back to work the night after the day it all happened.

3 (OR 4) POLIO SHOTS? If two polio shots give 75 to 80 per cent immunity and a third shot raises the figure to 90 per cent, then



AWARD WINNER: Sister Paschala Noonan, O.P., maternity supervisor at St. Catherine of Sienna Hospital, McCook, Neb., is the 1958 winner of the Mary M. Roberts Fellowship. This annual award of the American Journal of Nursing Company is given to a promising writer for a year's study in the field of journalism.

a fourth one should afford even greater protection.

So reasons Dr. Lewis L. Coriell of the University of Pennsylvania.

Experience, he points out, has shown that in some youngsters paralytic polio crops up even after a third injection. One more shot might prevent this, he believes.

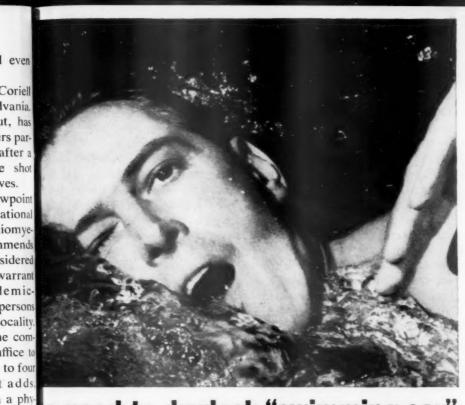
A somewhat different viewpoint is found in a report of the National Advisory Committee on Poliomyelitis. The committee recommends that a fourth shot be considered only where circumstances warrant it—for example, in epidemicthreatened areas or among persons entering a high-incidence locality.

For the vast majority, the committee finds, three shots suffice to provide immunity for three to four years. A fourth shot, it adds, should be given only when a physician advises it.

N.A.C.P.'s membership included Dr. Julian Price of the A.M.A.'s Committee on Poliomyelitis.

### HEART GROUP ANNOUNCES 'BIG NEWS'—TOO SOON

Newspapers front-paged the announcement. It came, after all from an unimpeachable source, the Massachusetts Heart Association What's more, it concerned the discovery of a clot-fighting mold extract—one that promised quick relief in heart attacks. So the newspeemed as significant to some as the discovery of penicillin. MORE



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In "swimming ear" and other forms of Otitis Externa, Biomydrin Otic gives fast relief from pain, swelling and itching. And where there is a history of recurrence of "swimming ear," Biomydrin Otic has a prophylactic action if used before and after swimming. Biomydrin Otic is also effective as adjunctive medication in Otitis Media, supporting the systemic therapy of your choice. Ingredients: topically anesthetic thonzylamine HCl, antiinflammatory hydrocortisone, anti-bacterial neomycin and gramicidin, and mucolytic thonzonium bromide. Self-sterilizing, in ½ oz. plastic bottle that delivers one drop at a time.

For otitis externa and otitis media

### BIOMYDRIN° OTIC

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But subsequent word indicates that the M.H.A. promised more than it could deliver—at least at present.

Asked by RN for further facts about the new extract, its discoverer, Dr. Mario Stefanini of Boston's St. Elizabeth's Hospital, said he felt the news had been released prematurely. "We need further evaluation before any definite conclusion may be reached," he declared.

POLICE AND SCIENTISTS were still baffled at last report by The Case of the Jumping Household Objects—the widely publicized phenomenon connected with the Seaford (N.Y.) "mystery house"

occupied by Nurse Lucille Hermann and her family. The case remains, as one newspaper phrases it, "a whodunit without a crime, a criminal, or a solution."

TUITION CUT: The University of Michigan's one-year course in anesthesia is now \$90 (instead of \$135) for Michigan R.N.s, \$170 (instead of \$310) for out-of-state nurses. The reduced fees, it's hoped, will help relieve the nation-wide shortage of nurse-anesthetists.

the appointment of Florence S. Schorske as acting dean of its school of nursing. She replaces



Dean Elizabeth S. Bixler, whose retirement this month follows her recent marriage to Professor Norman L. Torrey of Columbia University.

#### CANCER GETS SPOTLIGHT AT CLINICAL CONGRESS

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Colonic cancer—a killer that takes 2,500 lives a month—generally gives such ample warning that its onset can be averted by a simple office procedure, says Dr. Neil W. Woodward Sr. of the University of Oklahoma.

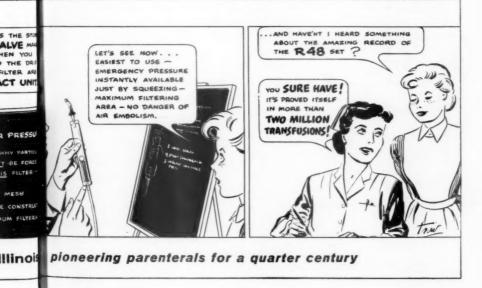
The procedure? Removal of colonic polyps that usually precede the malignancies. In most cases, says the surgeon, the polyps can

be found by visual examination—and at least 10 per cent of people over 40 harbor them.

Dr. Woodward's findings were reported at a recent congress of the International College of Surgeons. Other highlights of the meeting:

¶ Dr. Alfred A. Strauss of Chicago's Michael Reese Hospital reports success in coagulating cancers with electric-needle therapy. In a sample of 350 patients many of them over 60, half so treated have survived ten years, he states. A coagulated cancer, he believes, can act as an immunizing antigen against metastasis.

¶ Dr. Seiichi Makuuchi of Tokyo's Red Cross Central Hospital



66 Must be a doctor's office . . . 'O-Tips'\* all over the place! ??

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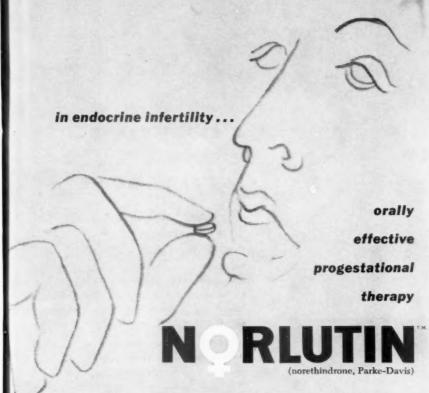
reports replacement of a cancerous urinary bladder with an artificial one constructed from an isolated segment of the intestine. Two of five patients who have undergone such surgery are experiencing satisfactory use of their new bladders, he states.

¶ Dr. Louis T. Palumbo of the Veterans Administration advocates complete removal of the sensory and motor pathways to and from the heart as a treatment for angina pectoris. The operation, he says, "insures complete or nearly complete relief from disabling pain" and in no way impairs the patient. Rehabilitation is rapid, and many patients are returned to near-normal life, he adds.

¶Weeping eczema of the resistant type can be treated successfully with a heparin-antibiotic combination, says Dr. David A. Dolowitz of Salt Lake City. In twelve cases, he reports, all responded rapidly to a preparation of 1 per cent heparin combined with either 3 per cent neomycin, 3 per cent polymixin, or 3 per cent streptomycin.

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Bacteria affecting the respiratory tract are killed quickly and prevented from developing drugresistant strains if detergents are added to antibiotics and used as inhalants, states Dr. Edwin J. Grace of New York City. The combination may also be helpful as an injection into the marrow in the treatment of osteomyelitis, he believes.



When progestational proliferation of the endometrium is inadequate for ovum nidation, conception cannot occur. In such cases of infertility, progestational therapy with NORLUTIN during the latter half of the cycle often produces clinically desirable results. Through endometrial improvement the possibility of conception is greatly enhanced.

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NORLUTIN or a congener was given to 50 infertile patients daily from the fifth to the twenty-fifth day of their cycles. Within five months of their last treated cycles, seven women conceived. While two of these had secondary infertility... five had been inexplicably barren for from three to six years.

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\*Rock, J.; Pincus, G., & Garcia, C. R.: Science 124:891 (Nov. 2) 1956.



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# riterature and samples

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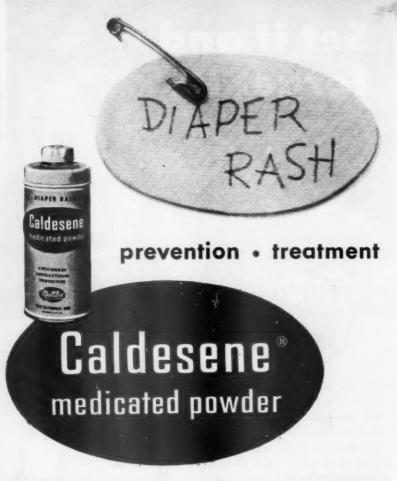
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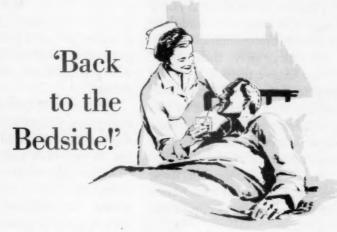
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## RN



Does this cry reflect a real urge among R.N.s to give more bedside care? Or merely a desire to escape new responsibilities?

By Mary MacRostie, R.N.

Reep your ears open in the hospital locker room or wherever nurses talk shop. Over and over you'll hear the words: I want to give patient care but I'm bogged down with too much lesk work."

It's true that each year proessional nurses have less contact with patients than the year before.

How little it amounts to today may surprise you. Dr. Faye Abdellah of the U.S. Public Health Service found from a study of fifty-four hospitals that "the professional staff nurse spends only eighteen minutes

N will be glad to consider publishing YOUR comments on this frankly controversial issue.

during an eight-hour shift with each patient."

So there's reason for all the talk you hear.

But do nurses really want to give more patient care? Or is this back-to-the-bedside cry only a sign of resentment toward their increased responsibilities?

Do they envy their aides' chance to give bedside care? Do they feel that their traditional role has been taken over by less qualified people? Is a close nurse-patient relationship really important for R.N.s?

To assay opinion on these questions, I queried staff nurses and nursing educators in seventeen states.

#### Consensus of Nurses

Most of the general and private duty nurses who gave me their views said they want to give patient care. "Why, that's what I was trained for," was a typical reply.

On the other hand, almost all the directors of nursing and the teachers I questioned thought we should go along with the newer concept-"nursing by remote control," as one phrased it.

An Illinois R.N. who insists on doing only private duty says,

"I gave up general duty a year arly ago. I simply couldn't go along sacre with the new theories of 'long' o o ross distance' nursing. Here's why:

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"I was still doing general floor duty when a woman described as hurse a 'very capable aide' was as the signed to my unit. One of her prob first charges was a patient who'd ation just had a hernia operation and more was getting nasal oxygen plus bur l suction.

"My 'capable aide' decided to when change the patient's position, so she detached the nasal tube from hink the oxygen tank and the Levin on nu tube from the suction machine cause Then, after she had turned the hursi patient, she mistakenly attached says the oxygen-tank tube to the Lev. Fla., in tube.

"The patient died within min realize utes. A massive GI hemorrhage ide had been caused by the force the oxygen flowing into he or a stomach.

"Right then and there I said happ. 'No thanks. I belong at the pared to tient's bedside. Never again will tear I let myself be chained to desk!" "

Janet Geister, for many year ons t a contributor to RN, reinforce work this nurse's view when she says ake "Many of us are bitter over septheir aration from patients, particulas str a year arly since a number of our most along acred duties have been given 'long o others—some of whom are rossly unprepared." vhy:

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Claire Garron, a general duty ibed as hurse in Philadelphia, cites what vas as the feels is an equally serious of her problem: "Nursing's public rewho'd ations," she says, "are damaged on and nore and more as patients leave en plus our hospitals saying, 'The only ime I ever saw an R.N. was ided to when I needed medication!"

tion, so A Southern private duty nurse be from hinks the pressure of desk work Levin on nurses will eventually ease beachine cause the newer concepts of ned the nursing just aren't workable. ttached says Corinna Lewis of Largo, he Lev fla., "It's just a matter of time before hospital administrators in min ealize that the nurse at the bedorrhag, ide is a must."

force A well-known Western educanto he or agrees: "Nurses are trained or bedside nursing. They're un-I said appy with all this desk work and the parted tape. An R.N. doesn't want gain will team of eight subordinates beween her and her patient."

It's apparent from these opinny year ons that many nurses think desk inforce work and supervision of aides she says take the real meaning out of over septheir careers. Yet others feel just particular strongly that the days of the close nurse-patient relationship are over-that nurses must go with the tide. Says Marjorie Glaser, vice president of the Kentucky State Nurses Association:

"Most of us became nurses because we wanted the satisfaction and gratification of helping sick people get well. I know it's hard, very hard, to give up this pleasure; but we must accept the fact that we have been upgraded. I don't mean to imply that there's no place for bedside nursing. Sometimes a patient needs the highly skilled care that only a private duty nurse can give.

"However, on the whole, modern nursing isn't a 'do-ityourself' profession any more. It's a profession that directs and teaches. If we adapt ourselves to the newer concept and try to find satisfaction in our administrative functions, we'll help our patients far more than we do by griping."

The role of the nurse as administrator is stoutly defended also by the dean of Seattle University's School of Nursing:

"Bedside nursing is not the only type of nursing," says Sister Mary Ruth. "Sometimes those of us in hospitals forget this. Nurses who stress bedside care to the exclusion of all other types and who reject their administrative and teaching functions are simply trying to escape their new responsibilities.

"I have to smile when I hear nurses say they can't spend enough time with the patients because of desk work and supervision of aides. Most of them have forgotten that they never did stay with their patients all the time.

"A few years ago they were bogged down in housekeeping details such as folding linen, shining faucets, and scrubbing bathtubs. Frankly, I'd rather be working at a desk than cleaning a utility room. And I don't think patients are now receiving poor care—not, at least, in hospitals where the general duty nurses closely supervise their aides."

#### 'Not Cut Out for It'

Head nurse Bernice Neff of Downey, Calif., says, "I like to think I'm a good R.N. But I wasn't cut out to be a bedside nurse. I get satisfaction, instead, out of the smooth running of my ward; and I like to teach aides to give good care. Some R.N.s waste far too much time mourning the days when they used to do it all!"

Some R.N.s questioned think that nurses give only lip service to the idea of wanting to work at the bedside. According to the director of nursing education at a well-known Eastern medical center, "Nurses say they want to give patient care; but it's just talk. Here's how I found out they don't mean what they say:

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"Recently, our floors were overstaffed, so each nurse was assigned to three bed patients. None of the nurses complained, but their attitudes showed that this wasn't what they really wanted.

"I've had similar experience with college nursing students," she continues. "It was like pulling teeth to get them to give bedside care. In a recent class of thirty such college-level nurses who graduated from a well-known university, not *one* chose bedside nursing as a career."

So, for the present at least there are two camps within the profession: One says the nurse belongs at the bedside; the other thinks she should be an administrator, leader, and teacher of auxiliaries.

It will take time to answer the question: Where does the nurse belong? But the answer is com-

ing. Experiments with intensivecare units for critically ill patients are gaining in popularity.

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wer the e nurse is comSays Dr. Abdellah, "The thing that impresses me most about these intensive-care units is the waiting list of professional nurses who want to get on their staffs."

As intensive-care units increase in number, the need for bedside nursing will give a chance to those who now decry the lack of it. And the alternative—wards for the ambulatory and the not so critically ill—will be tailor-made for the R.N. who wants to administer and supervise.

Meanwhile, nursing leaders suggest, let's try to be patient-centered rather than self-centered in our attitude toward bedside care.



"No, No! That's when they come to visit us."

# Resuscitation for Cardiac Arrest

You may help save a life if you're prepared to assist in this emergency technique

By Eileen McGloin, R.N.

Well, that's it. His heart has stopped. Let's go take care of the living."

How many times have you heard doctors say that? Some patient of yours with an apparently normal heart suddenly stops breathing. You put your fingers on his wrist, then on the carotid artery, but there's no pulse.

You call the doctor. Maybe he tries artificial respiration. Maybe he injects adrenalin into the heart. But your patient fails to respond.

Until very recently, medicine

more or less accepted the idea that once the heart stops life is over. But largely through the efforts of one man, Dr. Claude S. Beck of University Hospitals in Cleveland, this attitude is now changing.

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"Every normal heart can be made to beat again," says Dr. Beck. "We just have to give it another chance."

The "miracle" of cardiac resuscitation has been routine in operating rooms for many years. Surgeon, anesthetist, and scrub nurse are a trained team. They know how to treat cardiac arrest



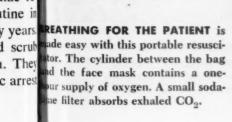


ASIC SET-UP: With a scalpel and chest retractor, two people-one do mouth-to-mouth breathing and e to massage the heart—can keep patient alive.

CARDIAC MASSAGE is a rapid, pumping action. Thumb and fingers are brought together to empty the ventricles, then they are spread wide apart to let them fill.

nd have on hand everything eeded to do it.

But Dr. Beck and his assocites, in a monthly workshop ponsored by Cleveland's heart ociety, are showing that the OR can be am is not the only group capble of treating cardiac arrest. n the ward, in the out-patient epartment, in the doctor's offe, any group can become a





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#### RESUSCITATION FOR CARDIAC ARREST

skilled team, ready to meet and overcome the crisis of cardiac arrest.

To find out how Dr. Beck teaches this skill and preparedness, RN sent me to Western Reserve University in Cleveland. Doctors, dentists, and nurses from all over the world go there to learn how to resuscitate the arrested heart.

The workshop I attended was held on two consecutive days. The first day we heard lectures on the etiology and management of cardiac arrest, and we watched

a surgical team perform the technique on anesthetized dogs. The second day everyone was given the opportunity to practice the technique himself.

The first things demonstrated were how a normal heart can stop beating and how it can be started again.

Suppose that for some reason (sensitivity to or overdosage with anesthesia or drugs, inadequate oxygen supply to the heart muscle, carbon-dioxide retention, or other factors related to anoxia) the conductive mechanism that



**DEFIBRILLATION** is achieved by placing an electrode on either side of the heart, squeezing them firmly together as a one-second shock is applied. Note that the operator holds the electrodes by their insulated handles to protect herself from the current.

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controls the heartbeat is interrupted. The heart then either comes to a complete standstill or goes into a state of useless ventricular fibrillation. At that point the victim is, to all intents, dead.

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#### **Speed Is Essential**

If within three minutes his oxygen system can be re-established (oxygen delivered to his lungs by mechanical respiration and oxygenated blood to his brain by cardiac massage), he will most likely survive.

If more than three minutes elapse, he may survive. He may also have permanent brain damage. For when the heart stops, the brain is the first organ to respond to the loss of its oxygen supply. And the longest the brain can live without oxygen is about five minutes. After that the higher centers die, and restoring the oxygen system may bring back to life only a decerebrate human being, a "vegetable." More often, death due to severe brain damage follows in a few days.

To avoid this tragedy, the medical team has to be so well prepared to meet the crisis of cardiac arrest that it can do the job almost automatically.

When ventricular fibrillation occurs, oxygenation and cardiac massage are still the first requirements, just as they are in a case of cardiac standstill. They will serve the purpose of keeping the patient alive and preventing brain damage.

But alone they can never stop fibrillation or restore a normal heart beat. This can be done only by "defibrillating" the heart applying a strong electric shock directly to the heart muscle.

The heart will then either begin to beat regularly on its own or come to a stop. If it stops, it can be massaged again to make it start beating by itself.

These principles were all vividly displayed at the laboratory in Cleveland. We gathered around the table for the first demonstration. An anesthetized dog was given a weak electric shock that caused immediate cardiac arrest by ventricular fibrillation.

The oscilloscope, picking up the pattern of the heart's action from an electrocardiogram, and tracing it on a bright blue screen, showed what was happening. Before the shock there was a normal pattern. After it, the wild, exaggerated peaks and valleys of ventricular fibrillation. MORE

In a matter of seconds Dr. David Leighninger turned the dog on its side, made a wide, sweeping incision across its left chest, thrust his hand into the cavity, and began to massage the heart. Simultaneously the anesthetist inserted a laryngoscope into the animal's mouth, passed an endotracheal tube through it into the trachea, and attached the tube to the oxygen-filled breathing bag of a mechanical respirator.

As soon as the doctor began to massage the dog's heart, the oscilloscope showed the normal pattern produced by the rhythmic pumping action of his hand, and the blue, fibrillating organ began to grow pink. But when he took his hand away for an instant, there was the wild, exaggerated pattern again. Oxygenated blood was being circulated throughout the dog's body. But his heart was still fibrillating.

#### Defibrillation

Then the doctor held out one hand. (He continued to massage with the other.) His assistant placed one of the electrodes of the defibrillator in the outstretched hand. Rapidly, the doctor placed the electrode under the

dog's heart, then stopped massaging, took the other electrode and placed it on top of the heart. He squeezed the electrodes firmly together and the assistant released the current. An electric shock of two amperes passed through the fibrillating heart.

#### **Normal Again**

Dr. Leighninger removed the electrodes and stepped back. We pressed closer and peered over his shoulders. Gone were the chaotic movements. The dog's heart was beating quietly with the coordinated, rhythmic contractions of a normal heart. And the oscilloscope again showed the pattern of a normal electrocardiogram.

The technique of resuscitation was repeated on a second dog. This time, cardiac standstill was demonstrated. But resuscitation was purposely delayed beyond the safe (three-minute) time limit between arrest and the start of oxygenation and massage.

The dog's chest was opened first, under general anesthesia. (This was done so we could see clearly what happens to the heart and lungs when cardiac arrest occurs.) Then he was asphyxiated. This was accomplished by

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When the incision was made, the heart was visible through the opening in the chest. It was bright red and lustrous and beating smoothly. It rose up and down on what looked like a cushion of bright pink foam. These were the lungs, expanding and contracting as the respirator inflated and deflated them.

#### **Cardiac Standstill**

Then the respirator was stopped. The lungs collapsed, sinking down into the chest and quickly turning dark red. They seemed to shrink until they assumed the color and appearance of liver.

For a few minutes the heart continued to beat—faster and faster, trying vainly to speed the circulating blood and to keep enough oxygen flowing to the vital organs. But soon the last bit of oxygen was used up and the heart gradually became distended, blue, and lustreless. Finally it stopped.

After about five minutes, resuscitation was begun. The mechanical respirator pushed oxygen into the lungs, and Dr. Leighninger started to massage the heart. Seconds later, the dog's lungs began to expand and to resume their normal appearance. The heart regained its normal color.

But this second dog took longer to resuscitate than the first one. It also had to have 2 ml. of 1:10,000 solution of adrenalin injected into the right ventricle (plus immediate massage to distribute the adrenalin throughout the myocardium) to help overcome muscle atony.

#### Too Late!

Next day both dogs were brought into the lecture room. The first one walked around sniffing at the strangers, his tail wagging happily. The second one crouched where he had been put, listless and inactive. His brain had been damaged, perhaps permanently, by prolonged lack of oxygen.

Over and over again, both verbally and in demonstrations, the Beck group repeated its evidence that the only things immediately necessary in emergency cardiac resuscitation are speed, breathing for the patient, and handpumping his heart. Everything else can wait. [MORE ON 85]

Jane Warren swaps views on child care with comedy star Victor Borge on one of her TV shows.



She Stars

44Hi, Mom!" is the show. It's televised daily on Channel 4, New York.

Jane Warren is the star. She's a pediatric nurse who builds her program around baby-care demonstrations, interviews with parents and others, and answers to questions from her millions of viewers.

Jane is something rare on TV—not an actress playing a part, but a professional doing the job for which she was trained. Slender, dark-haired, and attractive, without any touch of phony "glamour," she radiates an aura of unaffected, wholesome competence.

"Being a TV star is fun," says Jane. "I love it. But if someone

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### on Television

By Roberta Michaels, R.N.

were to walk up to me right now and say, 'Jane Warren, you can't be a nurse and appear on television too,' I'd quit television. I've been a nurse too long to give it up for anything else."

Jane became an R.N. in 1948 after training at Hinsdale Hospital School of Nursing in Illinois. She took postgraduate courses at Children's Hospital in Detroit and later studied polio nursing at Children's Memorial in Boston. Ironically, Jane herself contracted polio in 1951.

"I recovered almost completely," she says, "and for that I'm more grateful than I could ever tell you. My legs get a bit tired now and then. But otherwise I'd never know I had polio."

After her recovery, Jane became a head nurse at a Chicago hospital. It was there, strangely enough, that television "found" her.

"One day," as she tells the story, "a woman was brought in with a fractured ankle. After the doctor put a cast on it, we took her to her room. It was crowded with visitors. I started to shoo some of them out. One, a young man, said something about making a television star out of me. I laughed and kept right on showing him the door."

The young man actually was a TV producer, though. And he knew a photogenic R.N. when he saw one. So he kept after Jane and eventually signed her up for

a series of fifteen-minute teaching films called "It's Baby Time."

"That's how I got on TV," says Jane. "A sponsor bought the film series, and now it's been incorporated into the daily one-hour show. As far as I'm concerned, I'm still nursing. Only this is more fun!"

What she likes about TV is easy to see: the excitement and activity of the studio and the wonderful variety of people she meets in her daily work.

One of these visitors to her show was Victor Borge. "He has such a reputation for wit and sharp repartee that I was scared to death," Jane now admits. "I was afraid I'd be absolutely tongue-tied the minute we got in front of the cameras!

"So before the show I said, 'Look, Mr. Borge, I'm not an actress. I'm a nurse. And I'm for real. Please don't be too hard on me!"

"Well, he was so nice and we had such fun during that interview that I just threw my arms around him and hugged him when it was over!"

Jane's favorite mother-interviewee to date is actress Julie Harris. "I actually didn't interview her," she says. "I just listened! She told me all about her little boy's feeding problem and how she fretted over it till she realized he'd start eating regularly when he was ready."

The problem Julie Harris discussed is just the sort of thing Jane tries to get mothers to talk about ad lib. She has a few notes with her indicating questions she wants to ask the parents, but otherwise there is no prepared script.

"Sometimes I goof," laughs Jane. "I get carried away and forget some questions a skilled interviewer might ask.

"But the producers don't seem to mind. They say they hired me as a registered nurse with a nice personality and that's all they want me to be.

"I've never taken any acting lessons. I don't want to. I just want to be myself."

Aside from the colorful theater personalities she sometimes interviews, Jane often talks to doctors too. "My biggest thrill," she says, "was meeting Dr. Bela Schick, the man who discovered the test for diphtheria."

But most important of all to Jane are the babies. "They're the real stars of the show," she emphasizes. "You just can't tell

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"During the half-hour rehearsal they may be as good as gold and do everything you want them to. Then the minute you're on the air they just won't budge!

"But I don't really mind. My whole theory of child care is that babies are individuals; and I can't very well object if they pick show time to prove it."

Jane's working day is long and demanding. She gets up at 5:30 a.m. and is at the studio by 7:00. Then follows an eight-hour day of rehearsing, doing the current day's show, and getting ready for tomorrow's. After that there are letters to answer, research and study to do, and facts to check with her doctor-consultants.

After hours, as Mrs. James Palmer, Jane attends lectures and classes in pediatric nursing, reads books on child care, and dreams up ideas for the show. Then she gets her uniform ready for the next day's program.

"Uniforms are one of my biggest problems," she says. "I choose them myself because I want to be sure they're what I think a registered nurse should wear. I have to tint them, and my caps too, every single time they're washed, to be sure they're the exact shade of pale blue that looks white on television."

TV nursing is a far cry from regular nursing. For, as Jane points out, "When you go home at the end of an eight-hour hospital shift, you know the nurse who takes over will take just as good care of the patients as you did. My TV job, by contrast, is up to me and nobody else. What I tell the mothers has to be the best information available.

"The A.M.A. worked with me on all the scripts for 'It's Baby Time,' and now one of their representatives and half a dozen doctors are consultants for my present show. But I still have to do all the groundwork myself."

At that, Jane enjoys the chance to mix education with entertainment. She knows she is reaching more mothers and babies than she ever could as a hospital or public health nurse. The letters she gets from grateful parents convince her that she's helping them and their babies.

And what about the future?

"I'm going to enjoy the show as long as it lasts," says Jane Warren. "After that I'm going to be plain Mrs. Jimmy Palmer and have babies of my own." END





### Helping the Sick Chi H

By Marion O. Lerrigo, PH.D.

Y child's terror in the hospital, where he was alone with strangers who were hurting him, would have been less if I'd been in the same room," a mother wrote to her pediatrician. "For weeks after he came home, he screamed whenever we left him."

You'll agree that no child needs to suffer in this way. And the pediatric staff of Connecticut's Grace-New Haven Community Hospital feels the same way. It avoids, or at least plays down, anything that might cause psychic trauma in its child-patients.

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This staff believes that hospitalized children get well more readily if they can be made to feel more or less at home, especially if there's someone standing by with love and concern for them. And in the great majority

FOR THEIR COOPERATION in supplying data for this article, the author is indebted to the following staff members of Grace-New Haven Community Hospital, New Haven, Conn.: Milton J. E. Senn, M.D., director of the Yale University Child Study Center; Marian Weinberger, R.N., instructor in children's nursing; Elizabeth Childs, R.N., administrative supervisor of children's service; Cynthia Moller, instructor in diversional therapy; and Edith Olson, play supervisor.





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of cases, the best "someone" is either the small patient's father or his mother.

So parents are welcome at Grace-New Haven. They stay with their child during admission, go with him to his room, are present whenever possible at the time the doctor examines him.

They can visit for hours on end—any time from 2:00 to 7:00 P.M. In some cases the mother even sleeps at the hospital, in the room with her child.

But there's more for a mother to do at Grace-New Haven than merely supply affection. The THESE DRAWINGS, done by 11year-old Bobby Bell of East Hampton, Conn., while gravely ill with leukemia, show graphically some of the reactions of a youngster to his environment when he's hospitalized. Even more to the point, they suggest how dependent he is on the understanding of the nurse and the contributory efforts of volunteer workers. For permission to bring you these drawings, RN thanks The Women's Auxiliary of Connecticut's Grace-New Haven Community Hospital.—THE EDITORS

#### HELPING THE SICK CHILD

nurse makes sure the mother understands the case, answers all her questions, and encourages her to help in all suitable ways with her child's care. Thus his feeling of closeness to his mother is maintained. His fears are relaxed. And he's made ready to accept the care given by others.

Naturally the R.N. can't al-

ways use the mother's help. But before saying so she makes sure her reason is valid. Then she tells her reason to the parent.

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It's imperative that there be no rivalry between nurse and mother. Almost every child can sense such disharmony when it exists, and his recovery may be delayed because of it.

PROBIE



"Oh, fine-their gowns are on backwards."

But bringing parents into the picture isn't the only way to make children feel at home in the hospital. They want to make their own little "houses"; so it's better not to move them from room to room, or even from bed to bed.

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#### The Sign Painters

Recently we saw evidence supporting this belief on the doors at Grace-New Haven. Gay signs, painted with help from volunteers, labeled each child's room as his place. There was "Dolly's Den," scrawled in big red letters against blue sky, white clouds, and yellow flowers. Next door a drawing of a saucy snow man boasted, "I'm Sammy from Icicle Hill."

Routines like those at home also help the child to feel comfortable. For example, the nurse asks about his bedtime habits. Does he sleep with the light on? Take a favorite toy to bed? Say his prayers? Want a drink? Prefer to be sung to, or to hear a story? The nurse asks, too, about the child's toilet habits and the words he uses for these needs.

To increase further the youngsters' feeling of security, one nurse is assigned to a group of children, for whom she does everything. Because each child has one nurse who is "his" and one doctor who is "his," and sees them regularly, he soon gives them his confidence. The vital relationship of trust that develops makes him more receptive to their healing efforts.

This system of total patient assignment is considered sounder for the well-being of the whole child than its opposite—functional assignment.

#### **Almost Like Home**

"At home" feelings are furthered by allowing a reasonable amount of liberty. So each small patient is given as much free activity as is safe. For example, children can leave their rooms, walk in the corridors, visit each other, go to the bathroom, or ask in the kitchen for snacks.

Such an atmosphere shifts the child's attention from what he can't do to what he can do. It aids in overcoming the fear of helplessness that ill children often experience.

Of course, growth is always uneven, and some sick youngsters need the comfort of slipping back into babyhood. Three-yearold Sue, for example, is sucking her thumb while at the hospital, though she doesn't do so at home. This sort of thing is usually a temporary defense against the anxieties of illness. No child is forced to give up such defensive reactions at Grace-New Haven.

By far the best weapon against anxiety is knowledge. But children's ideas about the body and about hospital experiences are generally not well rooted in reality. As a result, youngsters suffer needless fears of the unknown.

#### No Secrets

The obvious solution is to do away with the mystery, and hence with the fear. The child should be prepared in advance for whatever may be new, painful, or frightening. For example, the thoughtful nurse lets her charge know that she'll be on hand during the night. If she must give a treatment, she wakes him and tells him what she's going to do. Whenever he's to be taken from his room, she tells him where he is going and where his parents will be, and that they'll be waiting for him when he returns.

Before surgery the child is told the color of the operating room, and that the doctors will wear green suits and helmets with holes for their eyes. (This might be a congenial sight to junior spacemen!)

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But some things are not predictable, and a certain amount of leeway is necessary so that neither parents nor child will think they've been lied to. For instance, in preparing a child for anesthesia, the nurse says, "They'll probably give you something to smell so you'll go to sleep." If the child asks, "Will they stick me again?" she replies, "Maybe. But usually they just give you something to smell."

Or, if a child asks how long he'll be in the hospital, the nurse answers, "I don't know, but we'll get you home as fast as we can."

If a treatment is apt to be painful, she reassures the young-ster beforehand. "This needle will hurt some, but only for a minute," she may say.

#### 'You Can Help'

Often she gives the child a chance to cooperate in his treatment, perhaps suggesting, "You can help us by lying very still." This gives him the feeling that he's sharing the responsibility.

Prior knowledge is especially

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helpful in such cases as spinal puncture, one of the most frightening experiences to children. Often the doctor thinks only that it's safe and can be painless; he forgets that the procedure itself may be terrifying.

#### **Explain the Procedure**

Because of the restraint applied, the child may think he's being punished. He's frightened because he can't see what's going on. Explanation beforehand helps avoid difficulty.

Some ways of phrasing information are less disturbing than others. In explaining intravenous feeding, for example, the nurse says, "There'll be a bottle hanging beside your bed and a tube going into your arm" (not "a needle in your arm"). By the same token, "You're going to have your tonsils fixed" is less frightening than "You're going to have your tonsils taken out."

Showing—if it's possible—is even better than telling. Suppose a child is to be in restraint following surgery for cleft palate. The nurse puts on the armboards before the operation so he can get used to them.

In spite of explanations and demonstrations, there'll be times

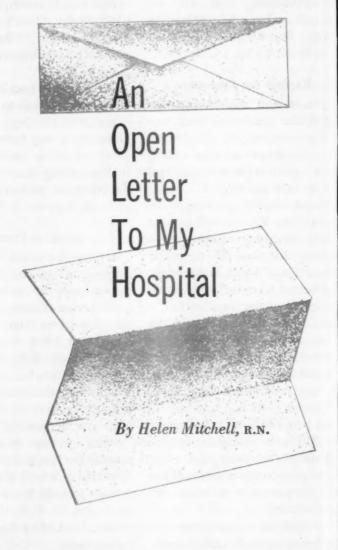
when the little sufferer needs to cry, simply because he's little and suffering. Out of deeprooted social custom, the nurse is likely to say, "Don't cry; you're a big boy now." (She probably wouldn't say that to a girl in tears.)

Actually, it's best if both boys and girls give way to an honest expression of feelings. In pain or illness there may be more therapeutic value in shedding tears than in holding them back. But if the youngster prefers not to cry, he needs support in that choice.

#### **Advice to Parents**

Before the child leaves the hospital, nurse and doctor can help prepare the parents to cope with the uncertainties that usually follow the first forty-eight hours after home-coming. What shall they do if he refuses his medicine or won't eat his supper? And how active should he be? Specific answers to these questions can be genuinely helpful.

After all, the small patient came to the hospital to get cured. Now that he's well, it's up to his parents to keep him so. But it's up to you, the R.N. in the case, to see that they know what they're doing.



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#### Gentlemen:

This letter to you who run my hospital—and those who run other hospitals—will be brutally frank. But it has a constructive aim; so I feel it's justified.

A recent article in RN said that today's rapid turnover of staff nurses is hitting you where it hurts most: in the budget.

So what, you ask, can hospitals do to induce R.N.s to stay put?

I'll tell you what: You can update your antiquated personnel policies. They're at least twenty years behind the times.

As any hospital nurse can testify, patient care is deteriorating every day. And it's going to get a lot worse unless you and others like you who run our hospitals wake up to the sore spots in staff duty.

What are these sore spots? You know the first: It's low

pay.

You know that this is the chief cause of our discontent. And you know that we deserve more money. But I don't see you doing anything about it.

True, you give us a monthly raise (\$10 to \$15, usually) at the end of our first year—plus similar raises each year for a while thereafter. But in five years we've reached the top. And what have we got then? Maybe \$300 a month—or just about what a girl fresh from secretarial school is paid in many a business office nowadays.

I ask you: Is that the true value of our professional training and years of experience? Are we to be paid, like clerks, only for time served and not for what we know?

Merit raises—pay boosts for work well done— are almost unheard of in the hospital field. I could count on the fingers of one hand the nurses I know who ever got one.

And what about overtime? How do you stack up with industry on that?

You don't! Only one R.N. of my acquaintance gets time and a half—and then only when she's doing OB work.

It's not that nurses have suddenly become money-mad. The fact is: Many of us have hesitated to request increases for fear that higher pay for us will mean higher bills for patients, many of whom can't afford any more.

No, we're not greedy. Nor do we seek to fatten up some union's strike fund.

But we do have the same needs as other Americans, and we have to pay the same prices. And you know what today's prices are.

#### **About Fringe Benefits**

Remember, too, that our pay—such as it is—is just about all we get for our work. Sure, we have a two-week annual vacation with pay—sometimes three weeks after five years' service. But that's about the extent of it. Hospitals' help-wanted ads show all too eloquently how few and far between fringe benefits for R.N.s are.

There's no excuse for this, either. Fringe benefits cost you comparatively little, yet they have high value for the recipient and pay off handsomely in terms of a contented, loyal staff. Here are several such benefits that call for your early consideration:

¶ PENSION PLANS. Social Security, with \$108.50 a month as the maximum benefit, isn't much

to look forward to at retirement. That's why many businesses have supplementary private pension plans for their staffs. But we don't. And how many other hospitals do? Not one in five.

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¶ LAUNDRY. Is there any earthly reason why every hospital can't launder its nurses' uniforms free of charge? The saving to us is relatively much greater than the cost to you.

¶ MEALS. Some hospitals offer free meals during on-duty hours. But ours doesn't. I believe it should.

¶ HEALTH INSURANCE. Here again, industry has left hospital management far behind. Some companies pay half the premium for employe coverage. Many—including plenty of small concerns—pay the entire premium. Giving this protection to your nurses and others is one of surest—and cheapest—ways to build a stable staff.

¶ LIFE INSURANCE. In these days of group coverage, why are so many hospital nurses also without life insurance? It can't be because hospital managements don't know about group coverage. Is it because they don't care?

Still other objectives must be

set up that will make for better personnel relations and less staff turnover. For example:

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A forty-hour week (still a rarity in nursing).

Bonuses for week-end and holiday duty.

Cumulative sick leave.

Paid time for attending professional meetings.

Discounts on pharmacy purchases and hospital bills.

Fewer work hours on weekends.

Easing of shift rotation.

Higher pay for evening, night, and week-end work.

Days off to compensate for unused sick leave.

Longer vacations.

Baby-sitting service.

Benefits like these are common today in business and industry. In hospitals, they're conspicuous by their rarity.

Can you wonder, in view of all these things, why hospital R.N.s are less wedded to their jobs than they used to be!

Some institutions, I realize, are trying to update their policies. But the vast majority still have to discover how really far behind the times they are—especially in the matter of pay and pension plans.

One word more: Don't think that the nurse's material needs are causing her to slight her professional ideals. All of us earnestly want better supervision, more in-service programs, and refresher courses that will bring back our inactive colleagues. With us, the patient comes first, and always will.

But we still have certain needs as human beings that must be met if we're to continue in nursing.

What are you going to do about them? END





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#### Key Facts Worth Knowing . . .

### datBorrow Money

By A. R. MacDonald

consumers had piled up nearly \$8,000,000,000 in personal debts to credit unions, loan companies, banks, and other agencies.

Your reason for borrowing isn't unique, either. One loan company reports that about 22 per cent of its customers borrow to pay overdue bills.

In consolidating your debts this way, you're only robbing Peter to pay Paul. But if you're gainfully employed, it's probably worth it. For, barring further emergencies, you then have only a single creditor, the loan agency.

Paying overdue bills is, of course, only one reason for borrowing. For example, one nurse who had always thought there was "something not quite nice"

about borrowing money says, "When I needed cash for a longdistance plane ticket to visit my sick mother, I didn't think twice about getting a loan."

Actually, there's no reason to be ashamed of borrowing. After all, you're not asking for charity. You're merely renting some cash for a while.

But finding the cash-rental plan best suited to your special need may take a bit of doing. For those who loan money offer a variety of prices and services. And they will insist on your signing a legally binding contract.

In shopping for a loan, it's wise to check sources within your profession. A recent RN survey indicates that you'll be lucky to find one near you; but better

look anyway. Here's what the survey reveals:

¶ Only eight alumnae associations, two state nurses associations, and one staff nurses association out of 235 groups that replied have funds for emergency loans.

¶ There is at least one credit union exclusively for nurses: the Nurses Credit Union of Minneapolis.

#### Some Hospitals Lend

¶ Three hospitals say they make loans on an individual basis. (Undoubtedly other hospitals also do this but aren't anxious to advertise it.)

¶ Twelve hospitals report credit unions for all their employes, including nurses.

Credit unions are, in effect, cooperative clubs. They operate under state or Federal supervision and make loans to members from their common savings fund.

Because credit unions are geared to serve closely knit groups, such as hospital employes or social clubs, members generally know each other—which, in itself, is good insurance against nonpayment of loans.

Another credit-union asset is low overhead, since the officers usually serve without pay. This saving is reflected in relatively low interest rates—generally about 1 per cent a month on the unpaid balance. A credit-union loan of \$100, for example, would cost \$5.50 in interest if paid off in ten monthly installments, or \$12 if paid off in a lump sum at the end of the year.

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Many credit unions lend as much as \$400 on a borrower's signature alone. Or you may get a higher loan if security is offered by co-signers (persons who agree to make good on the loan if the borrower defaults) or via pledges of personal property (commonly called chattel mortgages).

Credit unions lend money for emergencies; for education; for consolidation of existing debts; or for the cash purchase of an automobile, furniture, refrigerator, and the like.

You can also borrow from small-loan or consumer-finance companies. These agencies are in the moneylending business for profit. Their maximum loans range from \$300 to \$1,000, with state law governing the ceiling amount. Charges run from 1 per cent to 3.5 per cent a month, or from 12 to 42 per cent a year, on the unpaid balance.

Suppose a finance company lends you \$100 at 3 per cent per month. If you pay it off in ten months, it may cost you \$16.50. This is far steeper than the \$5.50 cost of the \$100 credit-union loan. Still it's within legal limits, and it reflects the overhead expense and profit margin of the small-loan company.

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Like credit unions, loan companies make many loans solely on the borrower's signature. Other loans are secured by cosigners, chattel mortgages, or assignment of wages. If you fail to repay a loan secured by wages, the finance company can collect from your employer. (If a chattel mortgage is involved, the lender can take possession of your pledged property through legal action.)

Even though most loan agencies are on the right side of the law, it's a good idea to check credentials. Does the agency have a license prominently displayed? Will it give you—in writing—the date of the loan, its maturity date, the security required, the name and address of borrower and agency, and the rate charged? If not, you'd better head for the nearest exit.

Plenty of people, including

nurses, have fallen prey to shady operators. And some have ended up paying many times the value of their loan in interest. One R.N., rescued from a loan shark by the Nurses Credit Union of Minneapolis, was paying \$14 per month on a \$300 loan. In a year, this would have totaled \$168, or nothing less than 56 per cent of the principal!

#### **Banks Are Best**

Ordinarily you can't find a better source of cash than the personal loan department of a commercial bank. But remember, interest rates on small bank loans are relatively higher than on large ones. The reason: Overhead costs the lender the same in either case. But in any event, the total cost is substantially less than the charges of most other lenders.

You may find, too, that loan charges on personal bank loans are expressed as "discount rates." In other words, the cost of the loan is "discounted" or deducted in advance. This means you don't get the full face value of your loan. Nor do you have the use of all the money for the full term of the loan, since you're repaying part of it each month. Net

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result: the true interest rate is nearly double the discount rate.

How does this work out? If you borrow \$100 at a discount rate of 3.83 per cent, you receive only \$96.17 (\$100 minus \$3.83). Since you reduce this debt in twelve equal installments, the average amount you get to use during the year is roughly half of \$96.17. So your *true* interest rate is more than 7 per cent, or about double the discount rate. But remember that this 7 per cent is an *annual* rate, and is equivalent to about 0.58 per cent a month.

#### Which Type of Loan?

A nondiscount loan, if you can get it, may well be better than a discount loan. There's also the "add-on" loan to consider. In an "add-on" loan, interest is added to the sum borrowed and then repaid along with the principal. Which type loan will be most economical for you can be determined only by figuring out the true interest you'll pay. Don't fail to do this before you borrow.

Banks often lend money for longer periods than other agencies, but their credit standards are apt to be stricter. Co-signers are required for some loans. Others are secured by pledging securities, an automobile, or a savings passbook. (Of course, any of these would be forfeited should you default on your loan.) As a rule, borrowers get a lower interest rate when a loan is secured by collateral.

Most life insurance companies lend up to the cash surrender value of a policy at about 5 or 6 per cent interest. This is a source worth investigating if you have a policy.

Usually banks will accept life insurance as collateral, too. And this is one of the best means to such a loan since it does not reduce the face amount of your insurance while the loan is in effect.

Bear in mind that you can't go far wrong if you shop wisely for your loan, talk to your local bank's personal loan representative, deal with a licensed lender, and know exactly what's included in the charges.

In other words, don't sign contracts blindly. Read them carefully so that you know your rights as a borrower. A time-tested rule in nursing is to read the label three times before pouring the medicine. Don't do less when you take a dose of debt! END

### nvitation to a New Day

BY MEDOS

One of the rewards of night duty is the grandeur of the dawn. For an unforget-table moment, the eastern sky is bathed in a splendor that no words can describe. "I've felt it," says Edwin Markham, "like a glory in my heart."

Many of us have experienced this feeling. I, for one, have found it an overwhelming joy. Yet only recently have I come to understand its significance.

It isn't the spectacle itself—however breath-taking—that makes the moment so vivid. It's the realization that the dawn offers something to each of us.

New hope? Yes. A fresh outlook? Certainly. But more to the point: opportunity. Thoreau sums it up when he says, "Only that day dawns to which we are awake."

As nurses, we welcome opportunity. Yet too often we spend so much time worrying

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concareyour -testd the uring when END about yesterday's difficulties and tomorrow's uncertainties that, before we know it, today has slipped through our fingers and opportunity is lost.

The extent of this loss is brought home to us in an age-old poem:

Look to this day, for it is life—

The very life of life!
In its brief course lie all the verities

And realities of your existence:

The bliss of growth,
The glory of action,
The splendor of beauty.
For yesterday is but a
dream,

Tomorrow only a vision.
But today well lived
Makes every yesterday a
dream of happiness
And every tomorrow a
vision of hope.

Look well, therefore, to this day!

This day . . . this priceless Now! Are we to waste it, for example, harboring a jealousy sprung from yesterday's punctured pride? Are we to lose what it offers, for example, bemoaning the fact that we can't have tomorrow off as planned? Thus do we squander the opportunities of Now.

Samuel Johnson, never one to mince words, bids us to "Learn that the present hour alone is man's." Yet how many a "present hour" is ruined—either by indulging in self-pity over past events or by fretting over things to come!

Somebody once said he had lived through a thousand terrifying experiences—none of which ever occurred!

True, our tomorrows will have—just as our yesterdays have already had—a measure of trouble and tribulation. For, as Longfellow reminds us, life is inevitably "checkered shade and sunshine." Even so, we can live life only as it's given to us: one moment at a time.

"Finish each day and be done with it," says Emerson. "You have done what you could. Some blunders and some absurdition doubt crept in; forget them as soon as you can. Tomorrow is a new day; begin it well and serenely with a spirit too high to be cumbered with your old non sense . . . [The present] is to dear, with its hopes and its in vitations, to waste a moment of the yesterdays."

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### Drugs for the Toxemia of Pregnancy

By Morton J. Rodman, PH. D.

hildbirth was never safer. Yet some women still die during pregnancy. And an even greater number of infants are lost at birth.

Acute toxemia is the killer in nearly one out of every three maternal deaths. It's the most common cause of stillbirths, too, and of deaths among the newborn.

Yet most of these mothers and infants don't have to die. Proper prenatal exams can detect toxemic symptoms before the condition has made any real headway. And new drugs can now keep toxemia from progressing to eclampsia—its final, and often fatal, stage.

These drugs don't strike at the actual cause of toxemia. That's still a mystery. But they can correct the chief symptoms: fluid retention and high blood pressure. They can control eclamptic convulsions, too. So the baby, instead of being delivered prematurely, can stay in the uterus longer-which gives him a fighting chance to survive.

A slight puffiness around the eyes, as well as in the ankles and hands, is an early sign of preeclampsia. This does not necessarily mean the onset of toxemia. But the alert doctor takes no chances—not when he can often nip the toxic state by simply putting the patient on a low-salt diet at the first evidence of fluid retention and by getting her off her feet for a while.

This works for most women. But some stay bloated and keep

THE AUTHOR is Professor of Pharmacology at the College of Pharmacy, Rutgers University, Newark, N. J.

#### DRUGS FOR THE TOXEMIA OF PREGNANCY

putting on weight—sometimes several pounds in a few days. Their output of urine falls, and what water they do pass may be high in protein content. Such albuminuria, together with a rise in blood pressure, blurring of vision, and severe headaches, may spell real trouble.

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These symptoms call for prompt treatment. Diuretics—to drain salty fluids from the tissues

#### Centrally Acting Antihypertensive Agents

Generic or Chemical Name

Hydralazine HCl, N.N.D.

Veratrum viride and Veratrum album alkaloids:

Alkavervir, N.N.D.
Cryptenamine acetates, N.N.D.
Cryptenamine tannates, N.N.D.
Protoveratrines A & B, N.N.D.
Protoveratrines A & B Maleate,
N.N.D.

Rauwolfia serpentina alkaloids:

Rauwolfia serpentina (whole root), N.N.D. Alseroxylon, N.N.D. Rescinnamine Reserpine, N.N.D. Trade Name or Synonym

Apresoline

Veriloid, Vergitryl Unitensin acetates Unitensin tannates Veralba Provell maleate

Raudixin, Rauserpa, Rauval Rauwiloid, Rautensin Moderil Serpasil, Sandril, Serfin, Serpiloid, Serpate, Rau-sed, Raurine, Reserpoid, Rauloydin,

Roxinoid, et al.

Rauwolfia canescens alkaloid: Deserpidine

Harmonyl

—can be very effective here. Until recently, only ammonium chloride and the organic mercurial diuretics were available. Either may do the job. But both have disadvantages.

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Ammonium chloride is adequate only when not too much fluid has piled up. It rarely works well when there's a lot of water trapped in the tissues. The mercurials are much more effective. But some doctors say they aren't nearly so satisfactory in toxemia as they are against the edema of congestive heart failure. Also, unless used with great care and judgement, they may damage already delicate kidney tubules.

#### **New Diuretics**

Several new diuretic drugs have recently been introduced for toxemia treatment. Among them are acetazolamide (Diamox), aminoisometradine (Rolicton), and chlorothiazide (Diuril). Unlike most mercurials, these agents are effective and well tolerated when given by mouth; people rarely become permanently resistant to their diuretic action; and their side effects, though present, are rarely serious.

Aminoisometradine does

make some patients nauseated. Acetazolamide causes drowsiness, even disorientation occasionally; it also gives some people a peculiar "pins-and-needles" sensation around the lips and in the limbs (paresthesia). Chlorothiazide, a chemical relative, may do the same. And, like other potent diuretics, all of these sometimes dehydrate patients or throw their fluid-electrolyte balance out of kilter.

#### They Can Work Too Well

This may happen if the drugs do their work too well. That's because they all act by keeping the kidney tubules from reabsorbing some of the sodium and other ions filtered through the glomeruli. The electrolytes are then excreted along with the water they're dissolved in. That's what makes the edema clear up so dramatically.

But sometimes too much of a particular chemical is excreted. The result: acidosis, alkalosis, or other body-chemical imbalance.

Acetazolamide, for example, removes bicarbonate from the blood and body fluids along with excess sodium. The loss of this base from the body produces a mild acidosis. Chlorothiazide, it's

#### DRUGS FOR THE TOXEMIA OF PREGNANCY

claimed, doesn't do this; it doesn't excrete excessive amounts of bicarbonate; instead, it rids the body of sodium and chloride in equal proportions.

This "saluretic" or salt-removing action of chlorothiazide gives it an advantage in toxemia treatment because keeping body salt low seems to reduce blood pressure. Doctors have given chlorothiazide to patients who wouldn't stick to unpalatable low-salt diets and have found that blood pressure fell even when these patients salted their food. The drug also seems to increase the effectiveness of all the common bloodpressure-reducing agents.

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Why the blood pressure soars in toxemia is uncertain. Some doctors think it starts when pressure by the uterine contents cuts the placenta's blood supply.

#### New Oral Diuretics

Comonto	 Chemical	M

Acetazolamide, N.N.D. Chlorothiazide Aminometradine, N.N.D.

Aminoisometradine, N.N.D.

Ethoxzolamide

Trade Name or Synonym

Diamox Diuril Mictine Rolicton Cardrase

#### Sedative, Tranquilizer, and Anticonvulsant Agents

#### Generic or Chemical Name

Magnesium sulfate injection, N.F. Chlorpromazine HCl, U.S.P. Promazine HCl, N.N.D. Promethazine HCl, N.F. Paraldehyde, U.S.P. Chloral hydrate, U.S.P. Morphine sulfate, U.S.P. Thiopental sodium, U.S.P.

Amobarbital sodium, U.S.P.

Trade Name or Synonym

**Thorazine** Sparine HCl Phenergan HCl

Pentothal sodium Amytal sodium

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This, they say, triggers the release of vasoconstrictor hormones, which circulate all over the body, tightening vessels everywhere. Others believe that toxic proteins produced by damaged uterine tissues set off generalized vasoconstriction.

No matter what the cause, the result is undesirable—a reduction in blood flow to vital organs and a rise in pressure as the fluid has to force its way through narrowed channels. If pressure doesn't come down quickly, the eyes, brain, liver, and kidneys may suffer irreparable damage.

Such hypertensive crises can even lead to death from cardiovascular collapse or cerebral hemorrhage. Lowering the blood pressure is therefore essential.

Drugs that act centrally appear best for achieving this end. They cut the flow of constrictor impulses from the centers that control vascular tone. This seems to work better than does intercepting the messages at more butlying sites, e.g., at the sympathetic ganglia, or in the blood ressels themselves.

Reserpine and other Rauwolia alkaloids, for example, are beleved to act by suppressing the outflow of sympathetic constrictor impulses from the hypothalamus. These plant products are quite effective in mild pre-eclampsia. They usually keep pressure down even when given in doses that cause only such mild side effects as stuffy nose and drowsiness. This sedative action may even be useful in toxemia.

But reserpine alone doesn't do so well in actual eclampsia, even when it's injected. Its action is too slow and uncertain. So it's usually combined with more potent, quick-acting drugs such as the alkaloids from another plant, Veratrum, or the synthetic chemical, hydralazine hydrochloride (Apresoline).

#### **How They Work**

These drugs often produce a dramatic drop in blood pressure. They're usually given by intravenous drip in severe pre-eclampsia. This sends pressure down to normal in as little as five to ten minutes. Once it has stabilized at a safe level, the patient may be put on intramuscular medication. Later she may even be shifted to oral therapy and allowed to leave the hospital.

But ambulatory patients may suffer some [MORE ON 100]

## When Your Cirrhosis Patient Hemorrhages

Rupture of the esophageal varices demands real nursing talent and knowledge. Are you ready to meet the challenge?

By Richard H. Miller, R.N.

I've done a lot of bedside nursing and expect to do much more. Whenever I have a choice of patients and there's one with cirrhosis, that's the one I take.

Why? Because a cirrhosis patient is so critically ill that he's a real nursing challenge. I have to marshal all my professional resources when I care for him; and that's the way to become a better nurse.

This is the sort of thing that happens:

A nurse, we'll say, has given a hundred hours or so of care to a patient with cirrhosis. His skin is improved. His appetite is back. His ascites is lessened. So perhaps she sighs with satisfaction and says to herself, "Thank Heaven he's getting better now!" Th tra pro abi

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If she does, she may have to swallow her words. For such a patient, without any warning at all, may suddenly begin projectile vomiting of bright red blood; in which case one of the most dreaded complications of cirrhosis—ruptured esophageal varices—will have set in.

Nearly 50 per cent of patients with this complication die within a year of their first hemorrhage. Among those who survive the first hemorrhage and have a second, the mortality is 80 per cent.

Esophageal [MORE ON 88]

THE EDITORS of RN gratefully acknowledge the cooperation of Drs. A. Hendley Blakemore and Arthur Patek Jr. in the preparation of this article. Both are national authorities on liver diseases. The author is a graduate of the Mills School of Nursing, Bellevue Hospital, New York, and has had wide experience in the care of cirrhosis patients.

The Blakemore tamponade illustrated here has, in many cases, proved itself a life-saver by its ability to stop hemorrhaging of esophageal and gastric varices. It consists of a three-lumened tube with two balloons.

The doctor introduces the tamponade through the patient's nose, easing it into a position where one balloon (4) is in the esophagus, one (5) is in the stomach, and the distal portion of the tamponade (a gastric tube) (6) is also in the stomach.

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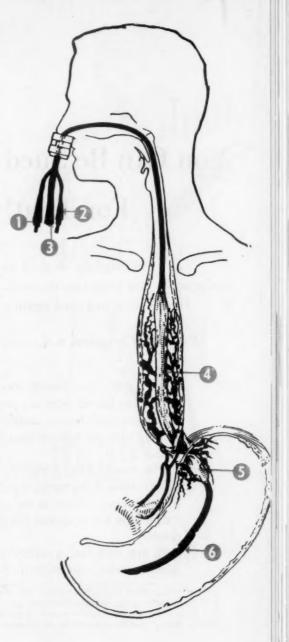
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The lumens at the upper part of the tamponade terminate in three tubes. To anchor the ends of the tubes, the doctor slips them through a slit in a one-inch foam-rubber cube and cinches the cube to the tamponade with half-inch-wide adhesive. Then, through lumen (1), he inflates the gastric balloon with 1,000 ml. of air and clamps off the tube leading to it. Through lumen (2), he inflates the esophageal balloon until an attached mercury manometer shows a pressure of 35 mm. Then he clamps that tube off. The pressure exerted by the balloons on the ruptured varices of the esophagus and stomach tends to stop their bleeding.

The doctor then lavages the blood out of the stomach, through lumen (3), using at least a liter of normal saline for the purpose. If, after that, the returns are clear, he knows the balloons have curbed the hemorrhaging. If the returns are not clear, he further inflates the gastric balloon and continues lavaging until the flow is clear.



## You Can Be Sued For That!

Negligence as well as malpractice can land you in court. Here's what to guard against

By Helen Creighton, R.N., J.D.

Are those side rails down when they should be up?

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Is that hot-water bottle too hot?

Did you triple-check that label before giving the medication?

It's easy to excuse yourself for overlooking a routine detail. But the law may call it negligence and may not excuse you. Every nurse, it warns, is liable for her own negligent acts.

That goes regardless of who employs her—and regardless of whether her services are paid for or gratuitous.

So you can't be too cautious. This is especially true in dealing with the hazards that most often lead to negligence suits.

The overlooked sponge is, of course, a common factor in suits brought by surgical patients. If a nurse fails to make a sponge count or errs in her count, and if the surgeon closes the incision with a sponge left inside, a damage suit may well result.

In one such suit, a supervising nurse, responsible for the sponge count, was held liable for negligence. A student

THE AUTHOR is a member of the Bar of the District of Columbia and assistant professor at Georgetown University School of Nursing. This article, the third in a series, approximates a portion of her new book, "Law Every Nurse Should Know," published by the W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1957.

nurse, who had simply passed sponges to the surgeon, was held not liable.

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In another case, the surgeon was held liable. Here, a charitable hospital was not liable for the acts of the O.R. nurses since they were under the surgeon's control; but the surgeon had neither counted the sponges himself nor required a nurse to count them.

Burns also rank high among causes of damage suits. Court records show that such suits have involved hot-water bottles, heating pads, inhalators, steam pipes, radiators, scalding hot water, douches, enemas, sitz baths, sweat cabinets, diathermy, and solutions that were either too hot or of improper concentration.

In an Oklahoma municipal hospital conducted for profit, a patient recovered damages for njuries due to burns caused by a 00-hot enema administered by n R.N.

Also in Oklahoma, a hospital

75

## 'NEWSHENS!'

That's what Time magazine calls the women who gather news and serve as news correspondents. Presumably the younger ones are "newschicks."

Whatever they're called, correspondents with a nose for real news are vital to any periodical that publishes news. RN is no exception. It has a number of valued news contributors and would be glad to hear from more.

This, then, is an invitation to share any nursing news you hear with your 170,000 fellow nurses across the country who subscribe to RN. You

can make a little spending money at the same time.

News submitted should be of significance to nurses everywhere. *RN* can *not* use items of purely local interest, such as capping ceremonies, staff appointments, and marriages.

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was held liable when a nurse burned a postoperative patient with an unguarded lamp globe while the patient was receiving emergency care for heart failure from a physician. The emergency had taken the M.D.'s full attention, and he'd been compelled to leave other details to the nurse.

Sometimes, the patient's own negligence may be a contributing factor. When this happens, the nurse may not be liable. For ex-

ample:

A patient was instructed in the use of an electric heating pad and operated it successfully for three days. Later, when he went to sleep with the current on, he was burned. In this case, neither the nurse nor the hospital was liable.

#### Beds a Hazard

Patients injured by falling out of bed often bring suit. So, too, do patients who slide off the edge of a high hospital bed after being allowed to get up or who fall while taking their first steps.

Accidents of this kind occur frequently among those under sedation, among postoperative patients not fully recovered from anesthesia, among persons who suffer from dizziness, and among the elderly, the blind and the semi-conscious.

## THE 1958 RN AWARDS

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- Your article will have the best chance of winning if it's (a) not more than 1,500 words long; (b) filled with examples, anecdotes, and cases in point drawn from actual experience; and (c) limited to just one aspect of any broad subject, whether it be clinical, human interest, economics, technical, or personal.
- Your article *idea* will have the best chance of winning if it's (a) between 100 and 300 words long; (b) specific rather than general; and (c) detailed enough so that our editors will understand *exactly* the point you have in mind.
- Entries must be postmarked no later than June 30, 1958, and addressed to Awards Editor, RN, Oradell, N.J. Manuscripts should be typed, triple-spaced on one side of the paper only, and accompanied by a self-addressed envelope and return postage,

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#### YOU CAN BE SUED!

In some hospitals, it's routine to place side rails on the beds of all postoperative and irrational patients and all under age 6; and, at night, on the beds of all aged 60 and over.

Obviously, delirious patients need side rails and constant observation. And when it is impossible for a qualified attendant to give constant attention, side rails should be put up as soon as an unconscious or partially conscious patient is returned to his bed after an operation.

In some states—New York, for example—the hospital is liable if a nurse fails to carry out a physician's instructions to use side rails as a precaution. (The negligent nurse, of course, can also be sued for this.)

Vigilance in administering medicines can't be overemphasized. A nurse can be sued for giving a wrong medicine, a wrong dosage, a wrong concentration; for administering medicine to the wrong person; for neglecting to read (or for misreading) a label; and for any similar error.

A patient in Idaho recovered damages after a nurse had negligently supplied a boric acid solution instead of a saline solution for injection into the patient's thigh.

In another case, a patient col-

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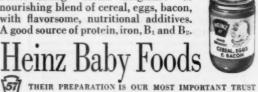
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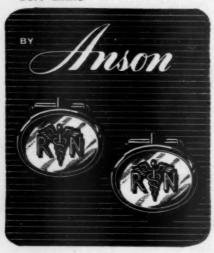


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## the nurse

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#### YOU CAN BE SUED!

lected damages for a nurse's failure to follow the M.D.'s directions. Here, the nurse had given the patient a hypodermic injection in the hip instead of in the arm.

The danger of infection must, of course, be heeded at all times. Use of an unsterile needle, for example, can readily make a nurse liable for negligence.

Defective apparatus is another danger for the nurse to watch out for. Naturally, she can't be held responsible for *hidden* defects in equipment; but if she uses apparatus or instruments with an *obvious* defect, she's liable for injuries that may result.

Leaving the patient unattended (abandonment) is still another form of negligence for which a nurse can be sued. To illustrate:

A baby left alone by a nurse crawled too close to an unprotected radiator and was burned. The nurse was considered negligent.

In another case, a nurse left the room in the course of giving a woman a bath. The woman, left uncovered for an hour on a raw, cold morning, got pneumonia. This nurse, too, was considered negligent.

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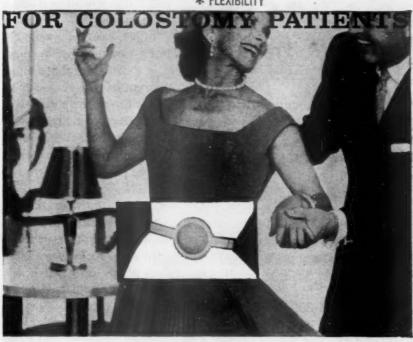
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# FREE!

REGULAR A-200 Pyrinate

HARMLESS TO PATIENTS

KILLS head, crab and body LICE and their eggs ON CONTACT!

**Speedy!** Results proven under the most carefully controlled clinical tests. A-200 Pyrinate took only minutes to kill both parasites and eggs—without any allergic manifestations. One application does the job!

**Easy!** Liquid A-200 lathers like a shampoo. Washes off with warm water. No messy salve, no tell-tale odor.

Safe! Non-poisonous.

FREE TRIAL! Prove its effectiveness on your patients—at our expense!

McKESSON Fairfield, Co	Laboratories
Rush me one	regular size package
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of A-200 Pyr	inate FREE.
	inate FREE.

personal belongings. Often such claims involve loss of or damage to dentures.

A simple, effective method of handling dentures is to place them in a container that's either transparent or conspicuously labeled. Wrapping them in a paper towel or piece of tissue is very risky because any unlabeled, crumpled handful of paper is likely to be picked up and thrown away.

Remember, too, that a denture can easily be damaged. For example, it may be left where something heavy—such as a dinner tray—is placed on it. Or it may accidentally be subjected to extreme heat or cold.

Obviously, the patient's clothing, money, jewelry, and other personal effects also need to be handled with care.

Any way you look at it, negligence can be costly. And it can involve any nurse.

If a patient is injured through negligence of a nurse-employe, both the nurse and the employer may be sued. The injured person may not collect twice for the same injury; but by bringing action against different defendants, he has a better chance of being compensated for his injury.

On the other hand, a private duty nurse serving as an inde-

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"MOTHER" by A. Lewin-Funke Courtesy of The Metropolitan Museum of Art



lassic therapy for preventing and healing diaper rash excoriation, chafing, irritation



. enduring in its efficacy

.. pleasing in its simplicity

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SAMPLES on request DESITIN CHEMICAL COMPANY

812 Branch Ave., Providence 4, R. I.



...that ASTRING-O-SOL® mouthwash is pleasant, effective and refreshing for the morning prep. Leaves the mouth clean and breath sweet. Thrifty too—you add just a few drops of concentrated

ASTRING-O-SOL to a quarter glass of water.

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for infants...
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Tasty "Junket" rennetcustards furnish more of the nutrients of fresh milk than typical canned "baby desserts".

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-7 tempting flavors

"JUNKET" Reg. U.S. Pat. Off. for rennet and other food products mfd. by Chr. Hansen's Lab. Inc.

#### YOU CAN BE SUED!

pendent contractor is solely responsible for her negligent acts; and the hospital in which she is working is not liable.

Either way, the consequences of legal action can be serious in terms of both time and money. A recent Washington case, for example, dragged on for eight years, no less. The persons embroiled in it had to be in court repeatedly; their time loss and mental anguish can be imagined.

Yet many a potential suit for negligence can be prevented simply by the exercise of due care. Your strongest safeguard against such suits is constant vigilance.



National Association for Mental Health

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[CONTINUED FROM 45] Once oxygenated blood is being delivered to the brain, the crisis has passed. There's time now to send for a defibrillator. There's time now to prepare a sterile field, to drape the patient, to have the doctor who's been doing the massage barehanded relieved by another wearing sterile gloves. The OR can be called and told to prepare for emergency closure of a thoracotomy. An IV can be started. Drugs for overcoming shock and myocardial failure can be given.

#### **Periodic Drills**

In increasing numbers, hospitals around the country are following Dr. Beck's recommendation that they hold periodic "cardiac arrest drills." In these drills, medical and nursing staffs may watch a film in which the Beck group demonstrates the technique. Or they may see an actual demonstration on an anesthetized dog. Or they may just go through the motions of practicing their assigned emergency roles.

One nurse told me of a senior resident she knows who devised a cardiac arrest drill of his own. He would come on the ward, slip into an empty room, and start shouting, "Knife! Knife!"

"He'd told us what to do if we

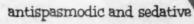
the difference hetween STOP and GO in cases of

- INTESTINAL CRAMPS
- DYSMENORRHEA
- SMOOTH MUSCLE SPASM
- HEAT CRAMPS

## HAYDEN'S VIBURNUM COMPOUND

Contains viburnum epulus, diescorea, prickly ash berries, aromatics and sufficient alcahal to release the resins in the crude drugs.

Patients who have been stopped by smooth muscle spasm are soon on the go again with HVC, prescribed by physicians for over ninety years as a consistently reliable sedative and smooth muscle relaxant. Symptomatic relief is both prompt and prolonged, and HVC is free from narcotics or hypnotics.



Write for literature and professional sample.

**NEW YORK PHARMACEUTICAL CO.** 

Bedford, Mass. U. S. A.

ever heard that call," said the nurse. "But the first few times he did it, we ran around in circles.

"Later we got so we responded to it like machines: The interne ran to do mouth-to-mouth breathing for the patient. I flew down the hall with the emergency thoracotomy tray. The aide got on the phone to call for more help.

"Actually, we never had a case of cardiac arrest while I was at that hospital. But we certainly knew what to do for one!"

An OR nurse told me this contrasting story:

"One night we got a call from the surgical ward to send over an anesthetist and the cardiac arrest tray. To cover the distance, even on the double, took us about five minutes.

"When we arrived, we found several doctors standing around and a sterile scalpel in the tray cabinet. But no one had done a thing about it. They were waiting for the OR people to arrive!

"Mind you, this was a surgical ward. So the neglect was that much more glaring. The patient lived; but he didn't have even so much as a cough reflex afterwards."

As more brains and more lives are saved by cardiac resuscitation done outside the OR, it's to be hoped that such lack of preparation and knowledge as this incident displays will become the rare exception.

"The public," says Dr. Beck, "has a right to expect that everything possible will be done to save the patient's life when cardiac arrest occurs. The time may come when those in medicine and nursing who fail to cope properly with this emergency will be considered guilty of gross negligence."

for the gentle touch

#### TASHAN° CREAM RO

For hands your patients will love to be touched by, the Tashan. Soothes and softens rough, dry skin from frequence scrubbings—or for your patients, relieves and stimulated healing in "sheet burn," diaper rash, excoriation, stissures, etc. A combination of vitamins A, D, E depanthenol, Tashan is non-sensitizing, non-sticky of non-greasy—in a gently scented base. Once you've the Tashan, you'll want to keep a tube handy.

In 1-oz tubes and 1-lb jars.

Roche - Reg. U.S. Pat. 0

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ROCHE LABORATORIES

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#### Two happy people . . . thanks to Dennison Diaper Liners

It's not surprising that many new mothers first learn about Dennison Diaper Liners from their nurses. For who can know better than you how these Liners help make both mother and baby happier and healthier.

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Baby's happier and healthier because these smooth, soft, lint-free Liners worn inside regular cloth diapers retard the growth of ammonia-forming bacteria which is one of the principal causes of irritating diaper rash.

Mother's happier because her diaper washing is breeze-easy. She just lifts out the soiled Liner intact and flushes it away. She doesn't have to handle messy or badly soiled diapers . . . nor soak and scrub them to get rid of stubborn stains.

Dennison Diaper Liners help diapers last longer . . . cost less than a penny a change.

Recommend Dennison Diaper Liners to your patients.

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#### **CONVENIENT ANTACID**

For patients who must stay on the job

Easy to Carry. Pleasant to Chew. Fast Efficient Results.

The formula of BiSoDoL Mints readily indicates why they afford such prompt and effective relief from heartburn and indigestion due to gastric acidity. No side effects. No constipation. No acid rebound or alkalosis. Free from sodium ion — BiSoDoL Mints help restore the normal pH of the stomach to maintain the optimum in physiological functioning. Most convenient for working patients to carry in their pocket or purse.



Composition:
Magnesium Trisilicate,
Calcium Carbonate,
Magnesium Hydroxide,
Peppermint.

WHITEHALL LABORATORIES, NEW YORK, N. Y.

[CONTINUED FROM 72] varices rupture because the cirrhotic patient's liver function is so degenerated that hepatic circulation is badly blocked. The block forces blood back into the esophageal and upper stomach vessels; they dilate, forming varices, and often burst.

Unfortunately, there's no sure way to diagnose the presence of enlarged esophageal vessels; although in some patients they can be discovered by means of barium swallows, esophagrams, esophagoscopies, and other such tests. If your patient has taken them and shows a positive result, you'll, of course, be alert to the possibility of an esophageal hemorrhage.

But my own experience has taught me that these tests don't always reveal the condition. I've often had a patient with a negative report on all the tests who has later suffered esophageal hemorrhaging.

So my advice to nurses is this: Be prepared for esophageal bleeding in any patient who has cirrhosis of the liver. By so doing, you'll increase the patient's chances of survival. You'll also save yourself a lot of wear and tear if hemorrhage occurs.

How to plan ahead? Here are the preparations I make. MORE

88 RN · JUNE 1958

## PLASMA Nouve de! Queatlable!

#### THE PHYSIOLOGIC PLASMA ELECTROLYTE

Provides ionic concentrations of sodium, chloride, calcium and magnesium precisely as found in human plasma... the potassium concentration is twice that of normal plasma and bicarbonate is also provided in twice its plasma concentration in the form of metabolizable precursors, acetate and citrate.

INDICATIONS: Uncomplicated medical, surgical, pediatric, orthopedic and urologic cases... to counteract dehydration... to expand volume of plasma and intracellular fluid without distorting ionic composition... to prevent postoperative potassium deficiency... to restore normal plasma electrolyte values in infantile diarrhea... and in the management of metabolic acidosis.

Because of the unique balance of its components, PLASMALYTE promotes normal fluid and electrolyte balances without inducing potassium toxicity, tetany or metabolic acidosis.

HOW SUPPLIED: Bottles containing 500 ml. and 1000 ml.

Where protein-sparing effect and increased caloric infusion are indicated, specify

PLASMALYTE with Travert<sup>®</sup> 10% Bottles containing 500 ml. and 1000 ml.



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DISTRIBUTED AND AVAILABLE ONLY IN THE 37 STATES EAST OF THE BOCKIES (except in the city of El Pare, Texes) THROUGH

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RN - JUNE 1958 89

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#### LAVORIS is important to sound oral hygiene



MOST PATHOGENIC

bacteria enter the body through the mouth, a cleansing, stimulating Lavoris rinse and gargle is a well-advised precautionary measure.

#### LAVORIS

is a stable and agreeable solution of zinc chloride and recognized adjuvants, having a distinctive cleansing and stimulating action on mucous membranes.



#### AN IMPORTANT

property of Lavoris is its detergency . . . effectively removing accumulations of bacteria-harboring mucus and oral debris and thereby exposing the tissues to its astringent, stimulating action.

ACTIVE INGREDIENTS: Zinc chloride, formaldehyde, menthol, oils of cinnamon and cloves, saccharin and alcohol 5%.



LAVORIS ADDS MUCH TO THE COMFORT AND WELL-BEING OF YOUR PATIENTS

THE LAVORIS COMPANY DEPT. RN-68, MINNEAPOLIS I, MINN.

#### CIRRHOSIS

When I have a new admission with a diagnosis of cirrhosis, I immediately read the doctor's orders. His first order is probably for a type and cross match, so I fill out requisitions and phone the lab technicians at once. (I do this promptly for if the patient should bleed, a transfusion would be the physician's first Stat. order, and I'd have no time then for such details as making out lab orders.)

#### Oxygen Needed

Next I put a tank of oxygen and a nasal catheter for administering it in the patient's unit. This is a must in the event of a rupture.

I also place a set of high shock blocks or a bed jack nearby. Then, if the patient starts to bleed, I can quickly call an aide to help raise the head of the patient's bed into high Fowler's or reverse Trendelenburg position.

When you've made these preparations, you're ready for any emergency measures that may have to be taken to slow down esophageal bleeding.

#### **How Bleeding Is Stopped**

To stop such a hemorrhage is another matter. In former days it was often impossible. But now we have the Blakemore tampona special page for nurses from Eaton Laboratories Medical Director Paul F. MacLeod, M. D.

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While trichomonal vaginitis remains as prevalent as ever, monilial vaginitis either is increasing in incidence, or is being identified more often. Similarly, coexistence of the two infections also is reported to be mounting.

Because of these findings, it seems only rational that vaginitis therapy be effective against both organisms. Toward this end, TRICOFURON® IMPROVED was developed.

TRICOFURON IMPROVED contains a new specific moniliacide, MICOFUR™ (brand of nifuroxime), together with the established specific trichomonacide, FUROXONE® (brand of furazolidone). Its results have been gratifying: clinical cures of 85% are reported, with itching, burning and malodor usually eliminated in 24 hours.

TRICOFURON IMPROVED is administered as a "2 step treatment": Powder for office insufflation by the physician once weekly; and Suppositories for continued home use by the patient once or twice daily through one cycle.

New box of 24 bullet-shaped suppositories, each hermetically sealed in green foil, is boxed with applicator.

NITROFURANS...a new class of antimicrobials ... neither antibiotics nor sulfonamides

EATON LABORATORIES, NORWICH, NEW YORK



ade—a real life-saving device that, if applied in time, will bring the hemorrhage to a halt.

This tamponade (see drawing) is a three-lumened tube with two attached balloons. When inflated in the stomach and esophagus, these balloons press firmly on the varices and tend to stop their bleeding.

#### Other Items You'll Need

If your doctor is going to use the tamponade, you'll need some auxiliary items: a tube of lubricant, a one-inch cube of foam rubber with a small slit through its center, a 50-ml. syringe with an adapter, a liter of normal saline, and a blood-pressure manometer.

The accompanying illustration and caption show how we use this equipment. The procedure isn't too complicated, but it is long and tedious for both nurse and doctor.

It's worse than that, of course, for the patient. He's beset by fear that he may hemorrhage again. And perhaps he will. But you try to put his mind at rest. Proper sedation allays this anxiety.

Emphasize to the patient that

# Relieves Intense ITCH in Seconds!

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ANESTHETIC! Relieves pain! Acts on nerve endings of the skin. Stops urge to scratch.

ANTISEPTIC! Helps prevent itch from spreading.

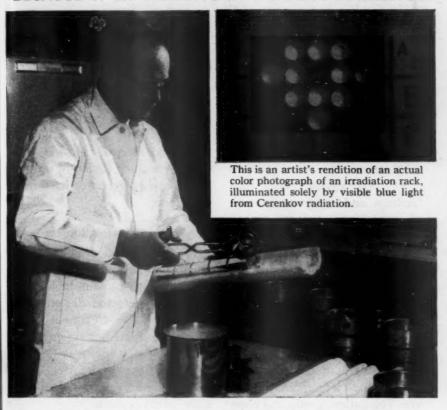
MEDICATED! Speeds up natural healing.

GREASELESS! Won't sting or burn!

ALSO INDICATED FOR cuts, scrapes, bruises, minor burns and for severe sunburn.

FREE OFFER: Regular tube of Nozain free for personal or professional use. Write Dept. DN, Noxzema Chemical Company, Baltimore 11, Maryland.

## TOMORROW'S CANNED FOODS MAY BE EVEN BETTER BECAUSE OF EXPERIMENTS WITH NUCLEAR ENERGY!



One experiment calls for the exposure of frozen canned foods to gamma irradiation. This photo, taken at the Argonne National Laboratory, shows cans being placed in an insulating cylinder. The

cylinder will be sealed within one of the aluminum urns (at right), then lowered into the water of the radiation canal. There it is exposed to rays yielding from one to two million roentgens an hour.



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High energy irradiation, alone or combined with thermal processing or freezing, shows interesting possibilities as a means for preserving packaged foods. To explore fully this new technique, American Can Company scientists are participating in an extensive irradiation research program.

Part of this work is carried on through cooperative projects at government and university laboratories, part through independent studies at Canco's multi-million-dollar Research Center in Barrington, Ill. As a result of this program, food for the nation's dinner tables some day may be sterilized by nuclear energy.

#### AMERICAN CAN COMPANY

RN - JUNE 1958 93

he is to swallow nothing, not even saliva. He should be supplied with plenty of tissues, and a suction machine kept nearby.

We leave the balloons inflated for forty-eight to ninety-six hours. Then they stay in place deflated for as long as three weeks. There are good reasons for this:

- (1) The patient needs tube feedings, and for this we can employ the lumen that we use to lavage his stomach.
- (2) The friction caused by pulling the tamponade out too soon might induce another hemorrhage.

#### Tamponade Isn't Enough

Of course, the tamponade, indispensable as it has proved itself, is at best a temporary measure. The patient's only real hope of escaping future hemorrhages lies in a shunt operation. If he has this and follows the prescribed health regimen afterwards, chances are he can live free of hemorrhage.

The shunt operation is usually done some time after the patient's first bout with esophageal bleeding. But he must, of course, be a good surgical risk first. So there's a waiting period in which he's allowed to recover from his experience.

#### **Preparation for Surgery**

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He gets blood transfusions; massive vitamin therapy; antibiotics; a high-protein, high-carbohydrate diet; and diuretics much the same treatment that patients with cirrhosis generally get, except that there's more of it. Included is an exhausting series of saline enemas—often as many as ten in a row.

The enemas are an essential follow-up to the massive upper





Susceptibility factors play an important part in the occurrence and spread of athlete's foot. With the advent of warm weather, individuals who have had the disease are prone to exhibit recurrences or reinfection. Frequently, this can be prevented by the continuous prophylactic use of Desenex preparations.



fast relief from itching prompt antimycotic action continuing prophylaxis

#### NIGHT and DAY treatment

AT NIGHT - Desenex Ointment (zincundecate) 1 oz. tubes. -

DURING THE DAY - Desenex Powder (zincundecate) - 11/2 oz. container.

ALSO – Desenex Solution (undecylenic acid) – 2 fl. oz. bottles.

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MALTBIE LABORATORIES DIVISION . WALLACE & TIERNAN, INC. . Belleville 9, N. J.

RN - JUNE 1958 95



and here's the relieffor infant skin...

### **AMMENS**<sub>®</sub> medicated**POWDER**

For diaper rash, chafing, prickly heat, and other minor skin irritations...

AMMENS discourages bacterial growth, absorbs excess moisture and protects macerated skin, eases discomfort and promotes healing.

For full details on AMMENS benefits, send for file cards.

AMMENS is carefully formulated to combine starch, talc, zinc oxide, boric acid, and hydroxyquinolin.

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GI hemorrhage. The old blood must be removed from the in- hings, testines so that it won't produce fressu ammonias, which the failing liver very would be hard put to destroy, re sta (Ammonia poisoning could cause latient a hepatic shut-down.)

When all has gone well and we I als can finally send the patient to the eratu operating room for his shunt op-lours. eration, we thank our stars. Better that he have surgery, we feel, orma than another hemorrhage with 104 its debilitating effects.

#### The Operation

The operation itself may be either an anastomosis between the splenic and left renal veins (a splenalrenal shunt) or an anastomosis between the inferior vena cava and the portal vein (a portacaval shunt). Either gives the desired effect:

The closed-down hepatic circulation is bypassed. The tiny capillaries that have tried to cope with the giant job of carrying the hepatic circulation are no longer overburdened.

#### **After the Operation**

Whichever anastomosis is performed, postoperative nursing care is much the same. And it is not nearly so complicated as it was after the massive esophageal hemorrhage.

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#### IORRHAGES

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lood In such a case, I do the usual hings, such as checking blood duce ressure, pulse, and respiration very fifteen minutes until they re stabilized, and coughing the atient every two hours to preent atelectasis.

nd we I also check the patient's temto the erature every hour for several at op- ours. The reason:

Bet. A postoperative shunt patient feel, ormally spikes a temp. of 101 with o 104. That's because a shunt is one deep in the abdominal cav-

Amusing . . .

Amazing . . .

Embarrassing . . .

No doubt one of these adjectives describes some incident that has occurred in the course of your practice.

Why not share the story with other nurses?

If it's accepted for publication, you'll receive \$10-\$25.

Contributions must be previously unpublished. They cannot be either acknowledged or returned. Those not accepted within ninety days may be considered rejected.

Address: Anecdote Editor, RN, Oradell, N.J.



ity and a few of the tiny bleeders may not have been tied.

The blood in the peritoneal cavity acts as a foreign protein: It brings on a temperature elevation. So 102 degrees is no cause for alarm. But if it goes any higher, the doctor is notified.

The big postoperative job is to lower this elevation. The patient is receiving 10 per cent glucose in water, but he may need more than that to bring his fever down. So we put him in an oxygen tent and keep it at 68-72 degrees. This is a great help. We also give him alcohol sponges.

#### **Postoperative Hazards**

Warning: Never give an alcohol sponge while oxygen is being discharged. This is a real explosion hazard!

Another thing: Don't leave the patient on an alcohol-soaked sheet. Change it. If you don't, a decubitus ulcer may form before you realize what is happening.

Someone should be with the postoperative shunt patient constantly for at least forty-eight hours. He'll be very restless. He'll get little or no narcotic medication because his liver can't handle it. So he'll have considerable pain.

#### It's a Long Road Back

The shunt patient, unlike many others, is not taken out of bed for three or four days. His recovery is slow. He doesn't get a full, solid diet for at least twelve or more days. We start him off with an ounce of water each hour and increase his intake gradually.

Since most shunt patients convalesce so slowly, it's a great day when one of them you've cared for is finally ready to be discharged. You and he have come a long way together.

## On or off duty

The famous neutral (pH 7.5) soap from Belgium. Used and recommended by physicians and dermatologists on three continents. Neutralizes acid and alkaline media — makes the skin as neutral as pure water. Preserves and protects natural skin functions. Keeps it soft and pliable. Wash hands 50 times a day. Your skin will not dry or peel. Cleanses like soap! Soothes like cream! A new adventure in all over cleanliness.

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## **IOCLIDE®**

Concentrated IOCLIDE\* is inexpensive, easy-to-store,

easy to prepare
...simply mix with water

26 ml. bottle makes up to 21/2 gallons of germicide

Pint polyethylene container makes up to 51% gallons

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KILLS SPORES, VIRUSES, BACTERIA

Including tubercle buckles

FAST

**IOCLIDE** disinfects in a few minutes

PENETRATING

Detergent action reaches contaminating deposits trasnes, proteins...cleanes metallic, glass, plastic, rubber surface.

VERSATILE

Ideal for emergency disinfection, and in disinfecting equipment whice does not belerate steam sterification

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Common disadvantages o corrosiveness, skin irritation staining and oppressiv bodors are minimize

COLOR TELLS STRENGTH

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Verialions in amber color of dilutions always provide a positive visual check of bulling course

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our dealer has (CICLIDE now. Call him today

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FOR THE cardiac patient

Tasty "Junket" rennet desserts average about 62 mg. sodium per serving while supplying all the nutrients of milk.

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RENNET POWDER

makes fresh milk into
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-7 tempting flavors

"JUNKET" Reg. U.S. Pat. Off. for Rennet and other Food Products mfd. by Chr. Hansen's Lab. Inc.

NEW, EASY, CONVENIENT!

FOILLE



DRUGS FOR TOXEMIA

[CONTINUED FROM 71] annoying side effects. Veratrum products often cause nausea and vomiting. Hydralazine gives patients headaches and may make them dizzy and faint. These side effects can usually be corrected by reducing the dose. Sometimes they tend to disappear as the patient keeps taking the drug.

More serious is the danger of cardiovascular collapse, which may occur if these drugs are given too rapidly by vein. Protoveratrine, for example, has to be injected slowly and cautiously. The drip should be stopped peri-

HELP YOUR HEART FUND





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## ...that Z.B.T. Moisture-Proofs Baby's Skin

Yes, because Z.B.T. Baby Powder with Olive Oil actually sheds moisture, it moisture-proofs baby's skin against irritating acid-moisture of wet diapers and perspiration. Soothes like powder, protects like oil. Guards against painful chafing, prickly heat, urine scald and diaper rash. Keeps skin dry and comfortable. Use Z.B.T. Baby Powder after bathing, at every diaper change.

NATIONAL BRANDS Division of Sterling Drug Inc., 1450 Broadway, New York 18, N.Y.

Note: Z.B.T. does not contain zinc stegrate or boric acid.

Z.B.T. BABY POWDER WITH OLIVE OIL HAS BEEN USED IN OVER 1700 HOSPITALS



odically and the blood pressure checked continuously. Pressor drugs and atropine should be kept handy to counteract any cardiac slowing or sudden fall in pressure to shock levels.

Despite such drawbacks, these antihypertensive drugs have properties especially useful in toxemia. Veratrum reduces resistance to the flow of blood through cerebral blood vessels. Hydralazine has a similar effect on renal circulation. Increasing the flow of blood through brain and kidneys is important in acute toxemia. The better blood flow

through these organs helps prevent anuria and convulsions, the two most dreaded complications of eclampsia.

Sometimes, in spite of these new drugs, this dangerous phase of toxemia develops. The victims are usually women who have neglected to seek proper prenatal care and who get around to seeing a doctor only when it's too late to prevent eclampsia. Managing such a patient is a difficult and complicated job. And here nurses have an especially heavy responsibility.

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The nurse has to keep a record



## TALKING TALKING

## Tired of TALKING Reducing Diets?

Save time . . . reduce tedious repetition. Suggest the Knox "Eat and Reduce" Booklets for cardiac, hypertensive and obese patients. Color-coded diets of 1200, 1600 and 1800 calories are based on Food Exchanges<sup>1</sup> . . . eliminate calorie counting . . . promote accurate adjustment of caloric levels to the individual patient.

1. The Food Exchange Lists referred to are based on material in "Meal Planning with Exchange Lists" prepared by Committees of the American Diabetes Association, Inc. and The American Die tetic Association in cooperation with the Chronic Disease Program Public Health Service, Department of Health, Education and Welfare

of blood pressure, pulse, respiration, and body temperature. She must check urinary output hourly and see that the indwelling catheter stays in place. If the patient is in coma, she may also have to supervise suctioning of the tracheobronchial tree and administration of oxygen.

In oliguria the nurse may have to set up intravenous infusions of glucose solutions to keep the kidneys functioning. But she has to keep a close watch, for giving too much fluid may lead to pulmonary edema and cardiac failure. Signs of circulatory embarrass-

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operation Program partmen Welfare ment or anuria require a switch to more concentrated (50 per cent) glucose solutions. These complications sometimes call for digitalization and venesection.

#### **To Stop Convulsions**

Keeping the patient quiet helps prevent convulsions. For stopping seizures, some doctors still prefer an old drug, magnesium sulfate. Concentrated Epsom salt injected intramuscularly, has a sedative-anticonvulsant action; it can usually be given about every four hours with safety. But the nurse should first



check to see that the patient has been voiding; for if the kidneys have failed to eliminate the first dose, giving the drug again could be dangerous. It shouldn't be repeated if the patient's knee jerk reflex is still knocked out.

#### Dangerous to Baby, Too

Magnesium sulfate is said to be a safer sedative than barbiturates or morphine in toxemia. It's less likely to cause oversedation and coma. Yet with these and all the older depressants, including paraldehyde and chloral hydrate, we run the risk of cutting the mother's oxygen intake. This may make the baby anoxic too.

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So some doctors are trying the new phenothiazine-type tranquilizers. Chlorpromazine hydrochloride (Thorazine) and promethazine hydrochloride (Phenergan), for example, are claimed to dampen eclamptic convulsions without depressing respiration. Rapid IV drip often brings violently restless patients under control in five minutes. Blood pressure and respiratory rates fall too. But mothers and babies stay adequately ventilated.



# REPEATING REPEATING

## Tired of REPEATING Dietary Advice

to Diahetic Patients?

Gain time ... decrease repetitious talk. Suggest Knox Diabetic Diet Brochures. Based on nutritionally tested Food Exchanges<sup>1</sup>, these diet Brochures demonstrate variety is possible for the diabetic, eliminate calorie counting and promote accurate individual adjustment of calories to the need of the patient.

1. The Food Exchange Lists ferred to are based on material "Meal Planning with Exchain Lists" prepared by Committee the American Diabetes Assotion, Inc. and The American I tetic Association in cooperal with the Chronic Disease Programulic Health Service, Department of Health, Education and Welfaren and Welfaren Chronic Disease Programulic Health, Education and Welfaren Chronic Disease Programulic Health Programu

All these medical measures may control the worst symptoms of toxemia. But delivering the baby is the only real "cure" for the condition. The trouble is that this can be dangerous during acute eclampsia.

So the time to "take" the baby is when the mother is in the best possible physical condition. That's when these drugs have stopped convulsive spasms and brought blood pressure down. Then, with the woman quieted but not comatose, the doctor can induce labor.

If the cervix is dilated, he can

rupture the membranes and give oxytocin (Pitocin). Some doctors also add the new hormone relaxin (Releasin, Cervilaxin) to soften unripe cervical tissues. If all this doesn't work, a Caesarean section performed with the aid of a local anesthesia may be. the solution.

We still have no drugs that actually get at the biochemical causes of toxemia. But, thanks to the new drugs we do have, "toxemic" mothers have a much better chance today than ever before to survive and to bear a baby that will live. END



Each brochure contains 16 pages of appetizing, kitchentested recipes.

Chas. B. Knox Gelatine Co., Inc. Professional Service Dept. RN-30 Johnstown, N. Y.

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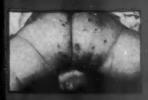
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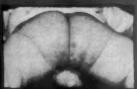
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#### **Additional Listings**

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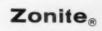


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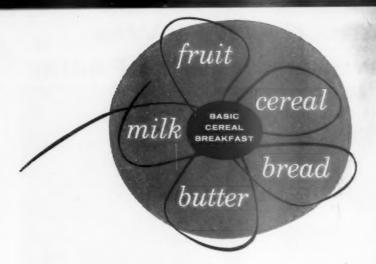
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The Iowa Breakfast Studies demonstrated that basic cereal and milk breakfast as shown be provided quick and lasting energy. This basic bro fast is low in fat and makes a well-balanced tribution of the essential nutrients.

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#### basic cereal low-fat breakfast pattern

Orange juice, fresh, 1/2 cup, Cereal, dry weight, 1 oz., with whole milk, 1/2 cup, and sugar, 1 tsp., Bread, white, 2 slices, with butter, 1 tsp., Milk, nonfat (skim), 1 cup, black coffee

#### Nutritive value of basic cereal breakfast pattern

CALORIES	502	VITAMIN A	600 I.U.
PROTEIN	20.5 gm.	THIAMINE	0.45 mg.
FAT	11.6 gm.	RIBOFLAVIN	0.80 mg.
CARBOHYDRA	TE 80.7 gm.	NIACIN	3.0 mg.
CALCIUM	0.532 gm.	ASCORBIC ACID	65.5 mg.
IRON	2.7 mg.	CHOLESTEROL	32.9 mg

Note: To further reduce fat and cholesterol use skim milk on cereal which reduces for to 7.0 gm, and Cholesterol Total to 16.8 mg, Preserves or honey as spread further in Fat and Cholesterol.

gains Bowes, A. deP., and Church, C. F.: Food Values of Portions Commonly Used. 8th ed. Philadelphi A. deP. Bowes, 1956. Cereal Institute, Inc.: The Nutritional Contribution of Breakfast Cereals. Chicago: Cereal Institute. mply Inc., 1956.

Hayes, O. B., and Rose, G. K.: Supplementary Food Composition Table, J. Am. Dietet, A. 33:26, 18 Cereal institute, Inc.: A Summary of the Iowa Breakfast Studies. Chicago: Cereal Institute, Inc.: 18 riacet

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